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Toronto metro

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HÉBERT ON DUFFY

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'A licence to discriminate'

PUBLIC HOUSING

Complex turns away disabled man for not being Muslim

A young wheelchair user has been taken off the waiting list for a publicly subsidized apartment because he is not a member of the Muslim community that established the building — a practice that, while legal, raises concerns that accommodations for cultural and religious groups could be limiting access to affordable housing.

According to a letter that arrived at his mother's house last week, Austin Lewis, 21, was removed from the waiting list at the Ahmadiyya Abode of Peace building on Finch Avenue West in North York because he is not a member of their faith.

"It was mostly confusing, more than anything else," he said. "Why would a government segregate its own building?"

Lewis, who has used a wheelchair since a disease attacked his spinal cord when he was eight years old, says he applied to more than 100 accessible buildings in Toronto, Brampton and Peel Region, and there was no notice that any of them were restricted to a certain community.

"We had no idea. The letter came as a complete shock," he said.

Austin Lewis was taken off a public housing waiting list.
RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The city provides a $1.7 million subsidy for 94 rent-geared-to-income units in the 16-storey non-profit housing complex, which according to a leasing website includes a prayer room that can accommodate 250. The subsidy comes under a five-year agreement, which began Jan. 1, that restricts tenants to "members of the Muslim Jama'at."

"The City's mandate policy allows social housing providers to restrict their housing to individuals belonging to an identifiable ethnic or religious group if specific conditions are met," says a statement provided by city spokesman John Gosgnach.

There are eight such buildings in Toronto, catering to Muslims, Macedonians, Germans and seniors who are Christian, Chinese, Greek, Hungarian or Lithuanian.

It's already hard enough to find affordable housing in the GTA, Lewis says, but when you're in a wheelchair, your options are limited even further.

"It does seem incredibly odd. There is housing for people 50 and over, but there is no housing specifically for people in chairs," he said.

His mother, Laura Whiteway, is incensed that her son could be turned away from a wheelchair-accessible building.

"They're being given a licence to discriminate. It's just wrong."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ELECTION 2015

- NDP and Conservatives refuse to debate women's issues
- Tory minister faces backlash for agreeing to speak at all-male club
- Green Party is scrambling to fix its 'anti-feminist' policies

SO FAR, ONLY THE LIBERALS SEEM TO...

GET WOMEN RIGHT

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

Toronto Liberal candidate Chrystia Freeland crashes the Cambridge Club on Wednesday to protest Joe Oliver's planned speaking engagement

See story, page 4

More election coverage, page 10

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Donald Trump 'never eating Oreos again.' **World**

Indie label vet lands new gig

JEFFREY REMEDIOS

Arts & Crafts co-founder to head Universal Music Canada

Canada's largest major label just took a shot of "indie" in the arm.

Jeffrey Remedios, co-founder of Toronto's widely revered Arts & Crafts music label, ascended into the orbit of Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber, Drake and Shania Twain as the new president and CEO of Universal Music Canada on Tuesday, stepping into the shoes of longtime Universal head honcho Randy Lennox, who left to take on the title of president of entertainment media and broadcasting over at Bell Media.

"This company has been my home for many years and I leave with the confidence that it's in excellent hands," Lennox, who has run Universal since 1998, said in a news release.

Indeed, he probably does. Remedios's Arts & Crafts imprint — co-founded with pal Daniel Cutler and Broken Social Scene's Kevin Drew in 2003 as a platform for that band's breakout You Forgot It In People album and records by such associated acts as Feist, Stars, Jason Collett and Apostle of Hustle — has been one of the pillars of Toronto's post-millennial indie-pop boom.

It now ranks as one of the most cherished boutique labels on the international hipster radar, with names as varied as Moby, F—ed Up, Dan Mangan, Bloc Party, Timber Timbre and Röyksopp on its roster. Arts & Crafts Productions also oversees the popular annual Field Trip festival at Fort York, originally conceived as a 10th-anniversary celebration for the label in 2013.

"These past 14 years have been the greatest," said Remedios via email, still delighting in the afterglow of a weekend wedding on top of the thrill of a high-profile new gig. "Building Arts & Crafts from a philosophical idea about artists and their rights into the industry leader it is today had been my proudest achievement until I got married this past Saturday."

17

Number of years Randy Lennox has served as president of the nation's leading music company. He passes the torch to Jeffrey Remedios Sept. 21.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

He leaves on honeymoon on Wednesday and will return to take over from Lennox at Universal on Sept. 21.

"One doesn't really ever take over from Randy," said Remedios, no stranger to the major-label world since he actually left a publicity job with EMI/Virgin to start Arts & Crafts in the beginning. "He's a force of nature and I don't begin to think I will step into his shoes. But what I will do is join the amazing team he has put together and do my best to lead it through this next chapter.

"It's a fragile time in our industry. Things continue to change quickly. As music fans move to a varied consumption model, it is critical the leaders in our industry ensure artists are fairly and properly compensated, that we don't see a continued hollowing of the music middle class (and) that the music industry continues to be run by music lovers who are focused on supporting and nurturing artists." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **We as an industry need a blood transfusion. And I believe Jeffrey is the perfect blood type.**
> Arts & Crafts co-founder Kevin Drew

After starting his own Canadian record label in 2003, Jeffrey Remedios built a name for himself as a driving force in Toronto's post-millenial indie-pop boom.

CONTRIBUTED/TORONTO NEWS SERVICE

UNDERGROUND

Toronto online radio station crowned best in North America

Frazer Lavender is the driving force behind the Toronto Radio Project, which is well known for its free-form style and broadcasts from a basement office in Bloordale Village. CONTRIBUTED

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Toronto's underground online radio station is gaining major ground in less than a year of operation.

The Toronto Radio Project has just been crowned the best online radio station in North America, edging out four other nominees that included Radio Free Brooklyn, Brooklyn Radio, Dublab and Dash Radio — all from the U.S.

"The win was really very unexpected," said Frazer Lavender, who started the station last November with the goal of exploring the city's underground music industry. "We were just very happy to be named alongside these other stations from around the world.

"It is a big honour for our still-young project."

Lavender started working to launch his station a couple of years ago after moving to Toronto from London, England. Unlike in Europe and U.S. where grassroots Internet radios have flourished, there wasn't a big platform for local underground pop, hip-hop, indie and rock artists, he said.

From about 10 intermittent shows to solid, 24-hour programming, the station has expanded to include live talk shows on a range of issues such as human rights and political affairs. More than 60 shows are produced on a regular basis, with volunteers pitching in from places like Vancouver, New York City and Cleveland.

"That's the beauty of Internet. The station is focused on Toronto but we're accessible to the whole world," Lavender said.

The audience is still small, but everyone is fully engaged and providing feedback, which goes toward the goal of building a community, he said.

"We try to keep everything live in the studio and encourage original content," he said. "We just want to make sure that our programming is different from 90 per cent of what's represented on other broadcast outlets."

LISTEN IN

To access the Toronto Radio Project, go to wearetrp.com.

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Chrystia Freeland confronts Cambridge Club president Clive Caldwell after crashing a scheduled appearance by Conservative Finance Minister Joe Oliver at the men's club in Toronto, Wednesday. JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

Alienating women

ELECTION

Candidates are 'out of touch' with female issues: Expert

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Joe Oliver's decision to give a speech at a private men's club shows just how badly politicians can "screw up" their appeal to female voters, one political expert argues.

"It's shocking to me that, even today, there are political campaigns and political leaders who don't understand the optics of choosing to alienate half of the population of Canada," said Siri Agrell, vice-president of communications firm Pilot PMR.

It follows a week of candidates' flat-footed responses to women's issues that have cropped up on the campaign trail.

Oliver's misstep was booking a speaking engagement at Toronto's Cambridge Club then backing out with hours to spare Wednesday after facing fire online.

Earlier this week, Green Party leader Elizabeth May's platform was called "anti-feminist," forcing the party to make changes. A debate dedicated to women has also been cancelled after Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the NDP's Tom Mulcair bowed out.

Janni Aragon, a feminist political scientist at University of Victoria, was very disappointed to hear the debate on women's issues was cancelled — especially when they are being talked about more in this campaign than ever.

> **The timing couldn't be more superb for the opposition.**
> Janni Aragon

The controversy over Oliver's speech just makes matters worse for the Conservatives, she said.

"The timing couldn't be more superb for the opposition and worse for the Prime Minister," she said.

"In terms of optics, not good."

The finance minister's men's club controversy reinforces the public's view of the Conservatives as the party "aligned with elite, white male experience," Agrell said.

"It's always surprising to me how out of touch these campaigns can be on issues that affect women, on issues that affect new Canadians, on issues that affect people who aren't in the upper middle class," she said. "I think there's a level of tone-deafness that's pervasive."

The optics aren't good for Mulcair either, Agrell said. But, he's done a better job of talking about policies, such as child care, that appeal to women.

The Liberals' campaign for female voters, meanwhile, has been "quite savvy," Agrell noted.

When the controversy over Oliver's speech emerged, the Grits quickly organized.

University-Rosedale candidate Chrystia Freeland gate-crashed the private club in front of the media. Oliver's Liberal opponent immediately started offering interviews, criticizing Oliver for ignoring issues in his Eglinton-Lawrence riding in favour of Bay Street.

"The Liberals saw that this was an opening for them," Agrell said. "I think they took advantage of that, and I don't blame them for that."

Pauline Beange, a political science professor at University of Toronto Scarborough, has a different take. She said Oliver's decision to make the speech, and then cancel it when it attracted controversy, is something that regularly happens in campaigns.

Women's issues aren't a big part of the Oct. 19 election, Beange said, and she doesn't think there should have been a debate dedicated to them.

"I'm not sure that's necessarily good for Canadian democracy to exclude men or have a debate that isn't more inclusive," the professor said.

CAMBRIDGE CLUB

Liberal candidate gets lukewarm welcome

Several people were on hand to welcome Liberal Chrystia Freeland when she stormed the Cambridge Club on Wednesday.

There was club president Clive Caldwell, manager Dean Brown — and a man in a white bathrobe who watched quietly, arms folded, but declined to give Metro his name. Oddly enough, none of them were all that interested in talking with Freeland.

"Can you guys take this outside please, now? I don't think you need to be here doing interviews," Brown said.

"Are you kicking us out?" shot back Freeland, now the MP for Toronto Centre but running as a candidate in University-Rosedale.

The club is "a place of business and relaxation" that doesn't allow cellphones and cameras, Brown said.

Caldwell offered Freeland a chance to give a talk to the club's members. Freeland, who ultimately left the club on her own accord, said she's not interested.

Finance minister and Conservative candidate Joe Oliver — whose scheduled then cancelled speech led to Freeland's appearance — was nowhere to be seen.

His campaign team e-mailed this statement when questioned by Metro: "Joe Oliver speaks to many groups, organizations and individuals in many places on a variety of topics, including the economy, security and leadership. He will continue to knock on doors and talk to people in his community of Eglinton-Lawrence about our low tax plan for jobs and growth."

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

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IN BRIEF

Ramp worker critically injured at Pearson Airport

An 18-year-old ramp worker at Pearson airport is in hospital in critical condition, Torstar News Service has learned, after a runway accident last week that has unions sounding the alarm over airport safety.

The Swissport employee was reportedly completing a 16-hour baggage handling shift early last Thursday morning when his cart crashed into a refuelling truck — throwing him from the vehicle and trapping him under its wheels, according to Michael Corrado of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers.

Peel Regional Police confirmed the collision and said a man was transported to hospital in critical but stable condition with head and arm injuries. He was later taken to a trauma centre, where he remains in care.

"Your heart just breaks, because it's someone who's just starting their life," said Sean Smith of the Toronto Airport Workers' Council. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Karen Hines says she found a critter like this critter trapped in an improperly sealed crawlspace in her "house of horrors."
CONTRIBUTED

Nightmare on a Toronto street

THEATRE

Local artist inspired by home-buying experience

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A nightmarish first home-buying experience has inspired a local playwright.

Crawlspace, a play coming to Videofag in Kensington Market next month, explores the brutal battleground of real estate through the experience of artist and author Karen Hines.

When Hines bought a tiny fully detached home in a downtown Toronto neighbourhood eight years ago, she had hoped to settle down and lead a wonderful life as a property owner.

Things didn't go quite as she had hoped.

"I would say that everything that could go wrong with a house did," said Hines. "I never had bed bugs but, other than, everything else was pretty awful."

Many of the details in the house listing turned out to be inaccurate, she said.

Some of the issues that surfaced were so bad people in the housing reno industry had never heard of them, she said.

Within the first nine weeks, Hines knew she wanted out.

She immediately started fixing the house, with the help of her brother, and moved out two years later, selling it "at a great loss."

For an artist, the experience was too important to forget.

Crawlspace, with a set that replicates the home's living room, dramatizes the ordeal, but it's all based on facts, Hines said.

She has changed all the names and places in the play to avoid implicating anyone, she said.

In many ways, Hines hopes to show can be a learning experience — saving someone else from her torment.

Her advice?

"There are a lot of things you can't really know about a house before you live in it," she said.

"But, don't just trust professionals around you.

"Do your own research. Every step of the way there's all sorts of legal room to leave out or alter the truth."

IF YOU GO

- Crawlspace, directed by Sandra Balcovske, runs Sept. 11-27.
- Videofag, a hotbed for experimental cinema, performance and visual art, is in its final season and will down next year.

IN BRIEF

Judge suggests mandatory locking device in impaired driving cases

One judge is wondering aloud whether interlocking devices in cars might help curb the number of impaired-driving cases clogging the docket of the Ontario Court of Justice.

Justice Graham Wakefield was presiding in the Oshawa case of Malham Outri, who was charged — and ultimately acquitted — of driving while his blood alcohol was "over 80," meaning more than 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

"'Over 80' charges consume a substantial amount of judicial resources in the Ontario Court of Justice," Wakefield wrote in his judgment last month. He wrote that he suspected the installation of mandatory interlocking devices — a machine that requires the driver to blow into a breath analyzer before being able to operate the car — would result in "a clear reduction in the carnage caused by drunk drivers." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fines follow housing fire

Alisha Lamers, 24, died in a basement apartment fire in Toronto last year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE/CONTRIBUTED

SAFETY

Blaze claimed woman's life, landlord held responsible

The owner of an illegal Toronto rooming house where a woman died in a 2013 fire has been fined $75,000.

Konstantin Lysenko, owner of 189 Sheridan Ave., was found guilty by a provincial offences court of multiple fire code violations at the house where Alisha Lamers, 24, died in her basement apartment.

A City of Toronto news release says Lysenko was fined $60,000 plus a $15,000 victim surcharge. He will also be on probation for 18 months, with conditions that include not possessing or managing a rental property.

The fire started on a cool November night. Josh Schaefer, 25, had stepped outside the basement apartment, in the area of College and Dufferin streets, for a cigarette when a neighbour yelled "Fire!"

He found the door to his apartment aflame, with his girlfriend, Lamers, sleeping inside. He yelled to her through steel bars across the window, but she was trapped and stopped responding amid thick smoke.

A city inspection found violations including broken and missing smoke alarms and a lack of the required two exits per floor. The rooming house was not registered with the city.

Lysenko and his Canada Corp. could have faced up to $1 million in fines, the Star reported after the fire.

The city news release quotes Lamers' mother, Janet Lamers Moore, as saying: "We have been waiting 21 months to hear the outcome. Hearing this will be very healing for me. It was so important to us to have the landlord held responsible for his part. Thank you again to your staff and to the three firefighters who carried Alisha out." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CONCERNED?

Toronto Fire Services is reminding anyone with concerns about the fire safety of a building that they can call 416-338-9107 and request an inspection. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"We have been waiting 21 months to hear the outcome. Hearing this will be very healing for me. It was so important to us to have the landlord held responsible for his part. Thank you again to your staff and to the three firefighters who carried Alisha out.

Janet Lamers Moore, mother of Alisha Lamers

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Driving carefully

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Considering a usage-based insurance program (also sometimes called telematics)

A usage-based insurance program monitors your driving habits, usually speed, braking, acceleration and the time of day when you're typically behind the wheel. Drivers who join a UBI program are typically eligible for discounts of up to 25 per cent.

Paying your premium annually, instead of monthly

Many companies charge a little extra to cover the cost of administering monthly payments. If you can afford to pay your premium annually—in one lump sum—then you'll likely pay less for your coverage.

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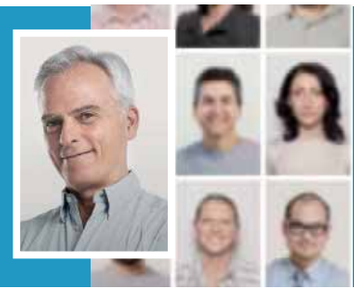

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5 EXAMPLES OF CULINARY CULTURE CLASHES IN TORONTO

Burger King took out a full-page ad in Wednesday's New York Times, calling on rival McDonald's to join in the co-creation of a "McWhopper." The stunt, which was tied to the upcoming International Day of Peace on Sept. 21, was quickly nixed by McDonald's before it hit the griddle. Toronto food historian Dan Bender said Torontonians already have plenty of fusion food to get excited about at home. Here are five examples of culinary culture clashes in Toronto that Bender recommends. **Luke Simcoe** METRO

1 Army base stew

"It's a kimchi-based stew made with things that came off American army bases during the Korean War, stuff like Spam," Bender said. "It's American industrial food for soldiers combined with traditional Korean dishes like kimchi. It's fantastically good."
Where can you find it?: Army base stew, or budae jigae, is on the menu at a number of Koreatown restaurants on Bloor Street West.

2 Pizza

Pizza is the ultimate fusion food, Bender said. At the end of the 19th century, pizza in Italy consisted of flatbread covered with oil and salt and rubbed down with an actual tomato. Since then, the form has been adapted by just about every culture that's tasted it, Bender said. "When it comes to North America, people have access to industrial meats at low prices and in large quantities, and that's when you start getting pizza with pepperoni and lots of cheese," he said.
Where can you find it?: Anywhere.

3 Banh mi sandwiches

Vietnamese food has been inexorably shaped by the country's history as a French colony, Bender said. Few things are more emblematic of this collision than banh mi sandwiches, made using French ingredients such as baguettes and pate, and Vietnamese staples like pickled carrots and cilantro.
Where can you find it?: Take a stroll down Spadina Road near Queen Street, or visit one of the city's two Banh Mi Boys locations.

4 Late-night pub curry

Bender said more and more pubs in Toronto — even traditional Irish ones — are serving curries. He credits the move to the number of Tamil cooks and labourers bringing their cuisine to local establishments. "The Tamil community is the backbone of the local restaurant industry," he said.
Where can you find it?: Bender recommends the curries at Allen's on the Danforth.

5 Custard egg tarts

"The egg tart has a remarkable history," Bender said. "They were likely introduced into Hong Kong from (the Portuguese colony of) Macau in the 1940s and then they became a standard of Hong Kong cuisine."
Where can you find it?: Try any Chinese or Portuguese bakery.

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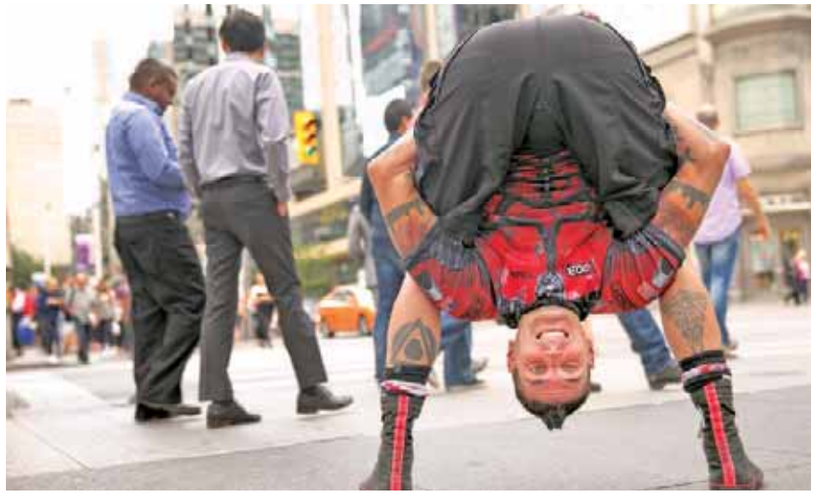
Untying the knot

BUSKERFEST

People's Choice Award winner dishes on how to busk the best

Liz Beddall
Metro | Toronto



The Human Knot walks the walk near Yonge Street downtown on Wednesday. PHOTOS BY LIZ BEDDALL

Alakazam of Australia, also known as The Human Knot, is a professional contortionist in town for his eighth appearance at Toronto's annual Buskerfest.

The festival, a four-day celebration of street performance, kicks off today in and around the downtown Yonge neighbourhood.

A three-time winner of the People's Choice Award at the event, Alakazam tells Metro how to busk with the best.

What makes a good busker?

You've got to be able to get a good crowd. That takes years of practice. The audience has to fall in love with you, enough that you can get them to do whatever you want.

What makes Toronto Buskerfest unique as a busking event?

It's definitely one of the biggest in the world — the crowds are always huge. It's a big event and the city always gets behind it, and it's for charity. Not a lot of busker events are for charity.

Greatest moment thus far as a busker?

I had Bruce Springsteen come up to me after my show once and he gave me lots of money and his contact information. So I've got to hang out with him a few times after that.

Advice for a first-time busker?

You've got to fail a lot of times before you get good. But if you want to get good at performing — any type of performing — the street is the one place that will really kick your butt. It will make you a really good entertainer because people can just leave if they don't like it. If they don't like you on the street, they're gone.

Limited time offer. Services available with compatible devices. Available with new activation.*Offers can end or change at any time without notice. Bonus gift is available on the activation of select phones with new 2-year agreement on select monthly postpaid plans at participating locations. Bonus gift will be awarded as either an in-store credit or a Visa Gift Card, depending on availability and participating retail location. Monthly government 9-1-1 fees apply in AB (44¢), NL (75¢), NB (53¢), NS (43¢), PEI (70¢), SK (62¢) and QC (40¢). Taxes extra. If you cancel your Commitment Period early, an Early Exit Charge will apply. See your Agreement for details. All pricing, plans and Member Benefits are subject to change/cancellation at any time without notice. Unlimited Text & Picture Messaging is only valid when message is sent from Canada. Text messages sent within the U.S. or internationally, premium text messages, text alerts, messages sent with an instant messaging application and dial-up messages are not included in any plan and cost extra. Canada-Wide Calling applies to calls made from Canada to a Canadian number or calls received from any number while you are inside Canada. Additional minutes are 50¢/min. Long distance charges on calls to the U.S. are 50¢/min in addition to your local per minute rate. Additional data is $5/100 MB. Phones and some colours may not be available at all retailers. Other restrictions apply; see virginmobile.ca for details. Screen image simulated. © 2015 Samsung Electronics Canada, Inc. All rights reserved. Samsung and Samsung Galaxy S4 are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Canada, Inc., and/or its related entities, used with permission. The VIRGIN trademark and family of associated marks are owned by Virgin Enterprises Limited and used under license. All other trademarks are trademarks of Virgin Mobile Canada or trademarks and property of the respective owners. © 2015 Virgin Mobile.

FORUM RESEARCH

NDP on track to win 174 seats: Survey

The New Democratic Party has the backing of an unprecedented majority in the House of Commons, a new poll has found.

The Forum Research poll for Torstar News Service projects the NDP has enough support to win 174 seats in the Oct. 19 election. Justin Trudeau's Liberals now sit in second place with 30 per cent support, while Stephen Harper's Conservatives are losing support and have the backing of just 23 per cent of the 1,440 Canadians surveyed.

The poll, conducted on Sunday and Monday, may have captured both anger at the revelations emerging from testimony of Conservative officials at Sen. Mike Duffy's fraud trial, as well as the recent stock market scare, which has heightened talk of a faltering Canadian economy, said Forum Research president Lorne Bozinoff.

"Maybe you could say it's a perfect storm for the Tories because they're the ones who seem to have taken this on the chin," he said. "We've said all along that if this economy goes south it's over for the Tories. They're in charge, they're it and on top of that they've built a lot of their campaign around being great economic managers."

Harper's campaign headaches seem to have benefitted the NDP, which now has 54 per cent support in Quebec, 41 per cent in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and 39 per cent in British Columbia.

In Ontario, the province with the most seats in the House of Commons, Mulcair's New Democrats lead with 36 per cent of respondents saying they would vote for the party. The Liberals are second with 33 per cent and the Tories have 26 per cent.

"The strength of the NDP is pretty pervasive across age groups, across regions of the country," Bozinoff said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair says he will soon lay out the terms on how he plans to create and fund a million child-care spaces across Canada. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget up for debate

ECONOMY

Leaders trade barbs over fitness as fiscal managers

Canada's three main political leaders traded accusations of fiscal recklessness and promises of budget prudence Wednesday as the health of the economy dominated the federal election campaign for a third straight day.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, trying to carve out a place for his party on the mantle of economic management, promised that a New Democrat government would deliver a balanced budget next year, no matter what.

Easier said than done, countered Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, who suggested — even as he billed his party as a champion of fiscal responsibility — that balancing the books would likely be a matter of years.

All of which left Conservative Leader Stephen Harper saying what he's been saying all along: the budget is balanced now, but won't be for long if either the NDP or the Liberals form the next federal government.

Asked during a campaign event in London, Ont., whether an NDP government would run a deficit, Mulcair was unequivocal: "We are not entertaining any thought of that," he said.

However, doing away with the Conservative income-splitting measure won't produce enough extra revenue to cover his spending promises, Mulcair conceded.

He said he will soon detail how he will stay in the black while implementing new programs, including an ambitious promise of a million child-care spaces within eight years.

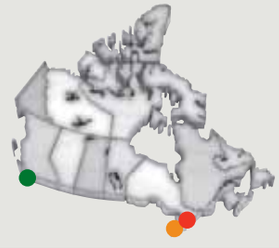
Trudeau was electioneering on the outskirts of Toronto, an area that looms as a key election battleground. He promised to give teachers a tax break on school supplies they buy with their own money — and dismissed the Conservative government's claims that the federal budget is already balanced. "We are in deficit now," he said.

Balancing the books will be a Liberal priority, he added, but it won't be easy. "How many years it takes to balance that budget is what we will be talking about in the coming days and weeks."

Harper was in friendly territory in rural eastern Ontario, where he promised to spend $200 million over seven years to expand broadband Internet access for remote areas.

He stepped up his attacks on his main rivals as reckless spendthrifts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE TODAY



- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Toronto and Oakville, Ont.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Ontario: Toronto, St. Catharines and Brantford.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Oak Bay, B.C.

Stephen Harper's itinerary was unavailable.

ELECTION

Federal candidate is the cat's meow

Rebecca Dingwell
For Metro

A Halifax feline known as Earl Grey is making the leap to federal politics — and cat-crazy folks from around the world are watching.

"We actually have more American followers on our Facebook page than we do Canadians," Hugh Chisholm, Earl's owner and spokesman, said Wednesday.

Earl is currently the leader of the Tuxedo Party of Canada — a group concerned with the ethical treatment of animals in the country. His symbolic federal campaign was announced this week.

Earl Grey himself. METRO PHOTO

"Because Earl is a cat, he obviously can't go from riding to riding soliciting votes," Chisholm said. To make up for Earl's lack of mobility, the Tuxedo Party has launched a virtual election tour.

Chisholm is mailing out paper cutouts of Earl and his brother, TJ, so folks can take photos with them and have them posted on the website.

Chisholm said they hope it will "make people feel like it's a fun campaign that they can get involved in."

However, there's a serious side to Earl's story.

"We have humour wrapped around the main message," Chisholm said. "We want whoever's elected in government ... to take a serious look at rewriting the Animal Cruelty Act."

Chisholm feels the laws, written in 1892, are now outdated.

"Most cases of animal cruelty, federally, don't really go anywhere because the law is so full of loopholes," he said.

Wanted: Space bracelets

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Canadian agency shops in Moscow for rare devices

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Canada may have slapped sanctions on Russia, but there's apparently one thing we still need Moscow for: space bracelets.

Newly released documents show the Canadian Space Agency planned to buy unique bracelets from a Russian state-funded organization earlier this year.

The agency needed the devices for a Canadian-led science experiment to measure the cardiovascular health of astronauts on the International Space Station.

Canada has taken a tough stance against Russian President Vladimir Putin's government since its incursion into Crimea. It has levied increasingly strict sanctions. Prime Minister Stephen Harper even told Putin to "get out of Ukraine" at a G20 conference.

But a January briefing note to then-industry-minister James Moore said the Canadian Space Agency needed to buy the bracelets from Russia because they weren't available anywhere else.

"Important Vascular Echo experiments are scheduled to start in August 2015 through the use of a unique device ('bracelet') that is produced only by the Russian Institute of BioMedical Problems," the note says.

"No alternative provider exists."

Metro obtained the document under the Access to Information Act.

The Russian institute is a non-commercial organization that receives state funds but isn't managed by any particular ministry, according to the briefing note.

The document goes on to say there was consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, which resulted in an assessment that the bracelets would fall under a special exception.

According to an outline of the Vascular Echo study on the NASA website, crew returning from the International Space Station have had stiffer arteries, which can cause higher blood pressure and increase risk of cardiovascular disease.

The study will examine changes in the astronauts' blood vessels and hearts in space, then follow their recovery on Earth.

Stephen Harper has been no friend of President Vladimir Putin since Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **Important ... experiments are scheduled (that need) a unique device that is produced only by the Russian Institute of BioMedical Problems.**
>
> Industry ministry assessment

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inc Research

Killings seen on live TV

TRAGEDY

Gunman also posted video of shootings on social media

A TV reporter and cameraman were shot to death on live television Wednesday by their former colleague, a journalist who also recorded himself carrying out the killings and then posted the video on social media.

The gunman, who was fired in 2013 from WDBJ in Roanoke, Va., fled the scene and went online, posting the video on Facebook and Twitter. He also reportedly faxed a 23-page manifesto and "suicide note" to ABC News, describing himself as a "human powder keg" that was "just waiting to go BOOM!!!!"

Vester Lee Flanagan II, 41, who appeared on WDBJ as Bryce Williams, had evidently been planning the attack for some time, authorities said. As he fled, he switched vehicles, picking up a rental car he had previously reserved at an airport. Troopers caught up with him hours later and hundreds of miles away after he fatally shot himself and ran off the road.

Reporter Alison Parker, left, and cameraman Adam Ward were fatally shot during an on-air interview Wednesday in Moneta, Va. COURTESY OF WDBJ-TV VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The live spot by reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward was nothing out of the ordinary: They were interviewing a local official at an outdoor shopping mall for a tourism story. Then, at about 6:45 a.m., morning show viewers saw Parker suddenly scream and run, crying "Oh my God," as she fell. Ward fell, too, and the camera he had been holding on his shoulder captured a fleeting image of the suspect holding a handgun.

> **Things were spiralling out of control.**
> W.Q. "Bill" Overton Jr., Franklin County Sheriff

WDBJ quickly switched back to the anchor at the station, her eyes large and jaw dropping as she said, "OK, not sure what happened there." The station later went live again, reporting on their own staff as the story developed.

Parker and Ward died at the scene after the gunman fired about 15 shots. Their interview subject, Vicki Gardner, was in stable condition later Wednesday after surgery for her wounds.

Video posted on Bryce Williams' Twitter account and Facebook page hours later showed an outstretched arm holding the handgun. The shooter walked up to the victims and stood a few feet away, but with all three in the midst of the live TV interview, none seemed to notice. The gunman waited until Ward's camera was pointed at Parker, and then fired repeatedly.

The shooting happened around 6:45 a.m. at Bridgewater Plaza in Franklin County, as Parker interviewed Gardner about the upcoming 50th anniversary festivities for Smith Mountain Lake, a local tourism destination. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Colorado theatre shooter sentenced to life in prison

The man who opened fire on a packed Colorado movie theatre was ordered Wednesday to serve life in prison plus 3,318 years.

Judge Carlos A. Samour Jr. ordered James Holmes, 28, to serve 12 consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole, one for each of the people he killed in the July 20, 2012 attack. He added 3,312 years for 70 convictions of attempted murder, and six years for an explosives charge. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspected train gunman facing terrorism charges

The suspect in a foiled attack on a high-speed train in France is facing terrorism charges, the Paris prosecutor's office confirmed Wednesday.

Authorities say Ayoub El-Khazzani planned to unleash carnage among hundreds of passengers. El-Khazzani, 26, has denied having terrorism plans, saying he stumbled on a bag of weapons and decided to use them to rob passengers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OUTSOURCING

No more Oreos for Trump

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump repeated his claim Tuesday evening that he would stop eating Oreos, citing the cookie maker's decision to close a plant in Chicago and move it to Mexico.

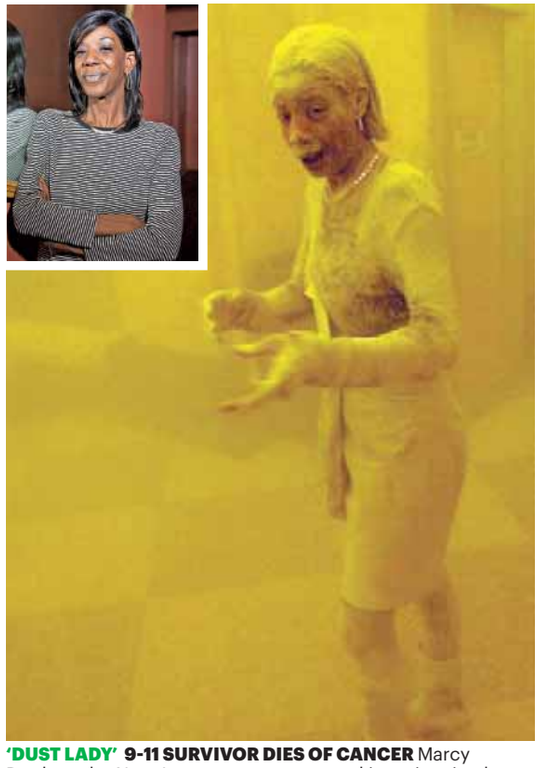
"I'm never eating Oreos again," Trump said, before adding that he would consider it if he could find some that were made in the U.S.

Trump's claim is partly true.

Oreo's parent company Mondelez International Inc. announced its decision last month to invest $130 million in building four new production lines at a plant in Mexico, which will replace nine older production lines at its Chicago plant.

The number of jobs at the Chicago plant will go from about 1,200 to about 600, said Laurie Guzzinati, a Mondelez representative, but the plant in Chicago will remain open.

Guzzinati noted that Oreos continue to be made in some U.S. plants, including in New Jersey, Oregon and Virginia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



'DUST LADY' 9-11 SURVIVOR DIES OF CANCER Marcy Borders, the New Jersey woman captured in an iconic photo taken after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City, died Monday at her home in Bayonne, N.J., after a battle with stomach cancer, her daughter said Wednesday. Borders, who was 42, had been working on the 81st floor inside one of the Twin Towers in the attack, but she managed to escape the building. STAN HONDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES FILE; INSET: REENA ROSE SIBAYAN/THE JERSEY JOURNAL VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SERBIA

Migrants thwart razor fence

Clambering over the razor-wire fence or crawling under it, migrants surged Wednesday across the Serbian border into Hungary. Then they jostled to formally enter the country so they could quickly leave it, heading toward more prosperous European Union nations on a desperate quest to escape war and poverty.

In Roszke, a Hungarian border town, police used tear gas to break up a brief scuffle involving about 200 migrants requesting asylum, mostly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Police said the migrants were growing impatient with registration delays.

So far the Hungarian border fence, which is being hastily built to keep the migrants out, consists of three layers of razor wire along the country's 174-kilometre border with Serbia. But it's hardly a formidable barrier.

One group of migrants, including women and children, crawled under it Wednesday, using blankets, sleeping bags, jackets and a stick to raise the wire. As a police car approached, they dashed through a field.

"(It's been) very, very difficult," Odei, a Syrian migrant from Daraa, said once he reached Hungary. "We were here from yesterday. We are very hungry. There's no food, there's no medicine for the children, there's nothing. We are so tired."

These migrants are following the Balkans route, from Turkey to Greece by sea, up north to Macedonia by bus or foot, by train through Serbia and then walking the last few miles into EU member Hungary. That avoids the more dangerous Mediterranean Sea route from North Africa to Italy, where dozens of bodies were found Wednesday in the hull of a smugglers' boat that was rescued off Libya's northern coast.

> **There's no food, there's no medicine for the children, there's nothing.**
> Syrian migrant Odei

Once inside the 28-nation EU, most migrants seek to reach richer nations such as Germany, The Netherlands or Sweden.

Over 10,000 migrants, including many women with babies and small children, have crossed into Serbia over the past few days and headed toward Hungary.

On the Serbian side of the border, groups of migrants were camping or strolling along the Hungarian fence Wednesday, looking for ways to beat it. An old blanket was thrown over it at one spot to cover the razor wire, a hole was dug under it elsewhere.

The migrants' goal is to cross without being spotted by Hungarian border police so they will not be detained and sent to Hungarian asylum centres, where they are fingerprinted. The migrants don't want to go through the asylum process in financially struggling Hungary.

"If I get fingerprinted in Hungary, I don't go to Germany," explained Abdul Majed, a 25-year-old language student from Syria. "We make fingerprints in Germany, so you will be a refugee in Germany, not in Hungary."

Even when they are fingerprinted in Hungary, many still head north and west to wealthier countries.

By Wednesday morning, 1,302 migrants had already been detained at Hungary's southern border with Serbia, according to Karoly Papp, Hungary's national police chief. Police said 2,533 migrants were detained Tuesday, up from 2,093 on Monday, with the numbers setting records nearly every day.

Hungary is still scrambling to react. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Volunteers from lowernine.org help rebuild damaged homes in the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans, La. The area was one of the most devastated areas of the city following a levee breach during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The 10th anniversary of Katrina, considered the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history, is Saturday, Aug. 29. MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

SPECIAL FEATURE

Ten years after Hurricane Katrina, a Canadian woman heads a small non-profit still working to rebuild homes in New Orleans' worst-hit neighbourhood. Metro's **Rosemary Westwood** reports from the Lower Ninth Ward.

Project Grace and Mercy

This is the second in a three-part series on New Orleans' ongoing struggles ahead of the 10th anniversary of Katrina.

It's only 10 a.m., and already it's dripping, sweltering hot — the kind of heat that makes you wonder why you put on a clean shirt at all.

Errol Joseph goes through three or four a day, working on his home in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward, a community made famous by catastrophic flooding after the levees failed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Joseph, 64, is getting into his van when I arrive early one morning. He's taking a rest in the shaded driver's seat before heading to the Home Depot for supplies.

His house was heavily damaged in flooding that left 100 per cent of the neighbourhood uninhabitable. And 10 years later, he's still rebuilding.

Around him, volunteers in purple T-shirts cut tile, paint doorways and tape ceilings. Some are from France, some from other parts of the U.S. All are offering free labour through a small non-profit called lowernine.org.

Executive director Laura Paul was living in Montreal when Hurricane Katrina hit on Aug. 29, 2005. In January of 2006, she stopped in New Orleans as part of a road trip, intending to volunteer for a few days.

She never left.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD/METRO

"Laura has been on my side through thick and thin."

Errol Joseph, Lower Ninth Ward resident

Paul, 44, started out with Emergency Communities, a charity formed in the wake of Katrina, living in a tent in nearby St. Bernard Parish for nine months. She was a founding board member for lowernine.org, created in late 2006 with the realization that at some point house gutting would need to give way to house rebuilding.

"Katrina did not discriminate," she says her voice rising a few decibels. "It's true. Eighty per cent of the city flooded." She pauses. "Disasters don't discriminate — recoveries do. That's an absolute reality."

A reality borne out by a study, released Monday by Louisiana State University, that found the black population has declined since Katrina while the white population has increased, and white median income is more than double that of blacks, and has grown three times as fast.

The Lower Ninth is a stark microcosm of the inequality. While 79 per cent of New Orleans' overall population has returned, the figure in the Lower Ninth — once a dense community of mostly black homeowners — is 36.7 per cent.

Joseph was born and bred on this block of the Lower Ninth, and he points out the lots where his neighbours used to live: Miss Elsie and Mr. Jesse, Reverend and Mrs. Sutton, Lady Dora, Mr. Alexander, the Gilmores, and the Simmons.

It'll have taken 10 years by the time he moves home (he hopes) for Thanksgiving. He recounts a decade-long maze of paperwork, meetings, damage estimates and mixed messages from government agencies tasked with residential rebuilding. The process has caused his thick black curls to grey, his weight to balloon 100 pounds.

"I'm exhausted," he says. "We have exhausted my retirement, my wife's retirement, our coffee cans," he says. He lists the friends he owes money: the welder, the guy who installed the electricity pole on his property, the guy who helped him raise his house to meet the required height guidelines.

Joseph got hooked up with lowernine.org in 2009, and since then "Laura has been on my side through thick and thin. I started to give up several times. Laura would say, 'No, we going, we going.'"

Joseph's is a story of bureaucratic chaos that makes his home a testament to both a disaster, and a miracle. He calls it Project Grace and Mercy.

Certainly, there aren't many other construction sites in the neighbourhood.

While rents across the city have soared post-Katrina and housing prices are rising, land value in the Lower Ninth has stayed low, first because the city originally decided part of the area would become green space, and then because of the slow recovery. There was even a failed plan last year to sell lots for $100 each.

MUZI LI/CONTRIBUTED

"Disasters don't discriminate — recoveries do. That's an absolute reality."

Laura Paul, lowernine.org executive director

Operating on an annual budget of just $149,000, lowernine.org has built 77 houses — only 23 fewer than Brad Pitt's much better-known and -funded Make it Right foundation. It is a staggeringly lean organization and it typically provides only labour. Homeowners need to provide building materials.

Lowernine.org isn't perfect. Most of the volunteers need guidance and supervision, sometimes there's a language barrier, and some only stay a week or two. Then a whole new batch needs training.

But I met half a dozen while I was there, and many were repeat volunteers. Graham Hyde, a sardonic 72-year-old from England via France, is finishing his second three-month stint. Vicky Maguire, 32, from Wales, is using her two weeks of holidays to come back a second time. Gregor Ernst, 20, came for seven months from Philadelphia last year, and returned to mark Katrina's 10-year anniversary and help finish the childhood home of one resident he's close with, and see another finally move home.

Paul fields daily calls from residents looking for help, and sees no end to the work, "as long as I can keep the lights on."

New Orleans, in all its grit and joie de vivre, is Paul's home now.

"You wander down the street and there's a guy in a prom dress riding a bicycle and there's a naked women and they're all drinking mai tais," she says, and laughs. "It is a passionate and spectacular place to live."

In the midst of efforts to rebuild this community, lowernine.org has created one of its own — of eager international volunteers and determined local residents reclaiming their homes. Joseph says the volunteers who've helped him know they're always welcome at his new, old house.

"I get each one of them to fill out a card about their stay here, and they can make you cry," he says. "You get to be family."

Tomorrow: The gentrification of a troubled city

PUSH FOR $50K

#50StatesCampaign

Lowernine.org is tyring to raise $50,000 — $1,000 in each U.S. state, plus $1,000 in Canada, too. So far, $30,000 has been raised. You can donate online at at lowernine.org. The campaign ends Sept. 5.

STOCK MARKET

TSX up, U.S. index soars in New York

The Toronto Stock Exchange was solidly higher Wednesday while indexes in New York soared as buyers flocked back to end a six-day slide, the longest on Wall Street in more than three years.

In Toronto, the S&P/TSX composite soared up 230.66 points to 13,381.591 after seeing an earlier triple-digit advance evaporate into a slight loss before ramping up again in the late afternoon.

Meanwhile in New York, another afternoon surge Wednesday gave the stock market its best day in close to four years, as stocks rebounded from a week-long slump.

The Dow fell about 1,900 points over that period, while the slump wiped more than $2 trillion off the value of S&P 500 companies.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended the day at 16,285.51, rising 619.07.

The three major U.S. indexes dropped six days in a row heading into Wednesday on concern that China's economy is weaker than investors had previously thought. That was the longest market slide in more than three years.

The turnaround at least temporarily ended the bleeding that has driven investors from the market and wiped out trillions of dollars in asset values, but there was no guarantee it would put an end to the recent volatility.

Still, there is no reason for most investors to be overly concerned, said Craig Jerusalim, a portfolio manager with CIBC Asset Management, who added that much of the volatility has to do with investor psychology.

"When greed is taking hold and the market is high, that is when investors want to be buying and when the market is low and fear sets in, that's when they want to be selling," said Jerusalim.

He said people should stay invested in companies with strong balance sheets and sustainable business models since statistics show that in most years, being out of the market on just the 10 best trading days can wipe out all or most of the year's gains.

Stock markets around the world have been in flux for more than a week amid deep plunges on China's main market and a decision by its central bank to devaluate the yuan in a move to stimulate its slowing economy. THE CANADIAN PRESS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Let's end the beef,' says Burger King to McDonald's

MCWHOPPER

Hybrid of signature menu items to promote peace

Burger King is hoping to set aside its rivalry with McDonald's Corp., at least for a day.

The fast-food chain is reaching out to its longtime competitor with an unusual proposal: create a hybrid of each company's signature burger — Big Mac and Whopper — and then sell it at a pop-up restaurant in Atlanta for one day. The profits would go to an organization that promotes world peace.

"We're being completely transparent with our approach because we want them to take it seriously," Fernando Machado, senior vice-president for global brand management at Burger King, said in a statement. "It would be amazing if McDonald's agrees to do this."

Burger King created a website, mcwhopper.com, that includes a proposed recipe for the McWhopper. The sandwich has six ingredients from the Big Mac (including special sauce, all-beef patty and cheese), and six from the Whopper (flame-grilled patty, onion, pickles, etc.).

Burger King, a division of the Warren Buffett-backed Restaurant Brands International Inc., has also mocked up hybrid

A mock up of the packaging. BURGER KING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

employee uniforms and packaging for the burgers. To draw attention to its gambit, the company took out full-page advertisements Wednesday in the New York Times and Chicago Tribune, the hometown paper for Oak Brook, Illinois-based McDonald's.

In a response posted on Facebook Wednesday, McDonald's chief executive officer Steve Easterbrook said his company would "be in touch" about the burger proposal.

"We love the intention but think our two brands could do something bigger to make a difference," he said. "We commit to raise awareness worldwide, perhaps you'll join us in a meaningful global effort?"

Easterbrook also suggested that a war analogy is overstated when it comes to the competition over selling burgers.

"Let's acknowledge that between us there is simply a friendly business competition and certainly not the unequaled circumstances of the real pain and suffering of war," he said.

The event would be held on Sept. 21, known as World Peace Day. The proceeds would benefit Peace One Day, a nonprofit that wants to make that date an "annual day of global unity, a day of intercultural cooperation on a scale that humanity has never known."

Burger King says it thinks the McWhopper can help promote the efforts of Peace One Day.

"As two of the world's largest brands, we're in the perfect position to influence change," the company said in a video on the McWhopper site. "Let's end the beef, with beef." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TECHNOLOGY VIRTUAL PRACTICE DUMMY DESIGNED TO TACKLE CONCUSSIONS Dartmouth College Engineering graduate Quinn Connell, upper left, controls the movement of the team's Mobile Virtual Player during college football practice on Wednesday in Hanover, N.H. In an effort to avoid concussions, the team practices with the newest addition to the roster, which the school says is the only powered device that simulates a real football player in size, weight, agility and speed. JIM COLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOFTWARE

Windows 10 on 75M devices: Microsoft

Microsoft said Wednesday that its new Windows 10 software is running on more than 75 million computers, tablets and other devices — in just under a month since the operating system was released.

Analysts say that's a good start, although the company is hoping to get the software installed on a billion devices over the next three years. Microsoft Corp., which is best known for making software for personal computers, is hoping Windows 10 will help it rebuild loyalty among users who are increasingly relying on tablets, smartphones and other devices.

Computer-makers are hoping to get a boost from consumer interest in Windows 10, which manufacturers are making available on new machines being sold this fall. But IDC noted in its report that Microsoft is also offering the new software as a free download for people who want to install it on their existing PCs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR
75.06¢ (+0.13¢)

TSX
13,381.591 (+230.66)

OIL
$38.60 US (-71¢)

GOLD
$1,124.60 US (-$13.70)

NATURAL GAS: $2.7 US (no change)
DOW JONES: 16,285.51 (+619.07)

HELLO M

Facebook launches rival to Apple's Siri

Built into Messenger, "M" is Faceook's new personal assistant and potential "Siri" competitor.

Rumours have been circulating about a Facebook personal assistant since July. Facebook has confirmed that the familiar "Hello Siri" may have a competitor in the form of "M."

Facebook's Vice President of Messaging Products David Marcus wrote on his Wall that "Today we're beginning to test a new service called M. M is a personal digital assistant inside of Messenger that completes tasks and finds information on your behalf. It's powered by artificial intelligence that's trained and supervised by people."

The difference between "M" and functions such as "Siri" or "Cortana" is that users only need the Facebook Messenger application.

At the moment, "M" is only available in very limited release to users in the Bay Area, as part of its trial period. AFP

metro VIEWS

Some wonder if Nova Scotia's Bluenose II ship should be docked in a museum. More tours are cancelled for steering repairs: $700K on top of a $20-million restoration.

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON WHAT THE PM KNEW ABOUT DUFFY

"The last thread of Harper's version is now so frayed, it speaks to his lack of an alternative explanation that he is still hanging on to it for dear life.

By the time Mike Duffy's trial wraps up later this year, voters will already have rendered their election verdict on Stephen Harper. But regardless of whether the disgraced senator turns out to be guilty in the eye of the law, in the court of public opinion the tenuous case designed to insulate the Conservative leader from a scandal involving his closest aides has already been blown out of the water.

From the outset, accepting Harper's contention that he was unaware of the extraordinary decision of then-PMO chief of staff Nigel Wright to secretly reimburse Duffy's unallowable expenses involved a significant leap of faith.

And yet, until the latest court developments, more than a few parliamentary insiders — including veteran political journalists such as myself and, more importantly, CTV bureau chief Robert Fife who broke the story — were willing to at least entertain the notion that Harper's version of events could be true.

For one, despite the talk of an all-knowing omnipotent Prime Minister's Office, files have been known to fall through the cracks.

The fact that the PMO has its finger in virtually every government pie actually tends to make such occurrences more frequent.

An octopus does not have eyes to match its many tentacles.

As the PMO was dealing with Duffy, Wright and Harper had many other irons in the fire, including a major trade agreement with the European Union and the planning of a mid-mandate cabinet shuffle.

And then it was suggested that the loop within which Wright had operated was so small that the stratagem could have been engineered without Harper getting wind of it.

That thesis fell apart when hundreds of email exchanges between Wright, various PMO staffers and the Conservative leadership in the Senate were brought to light by the RCMP investigation.

As of that point, only a bit of chicken wire still held Harper's story together and it centred on the notion that Ray Novak, the aide most likely to have his back, was not in on the Duffy fix.

In the words of campaign spokesman Kory Teneycke, it would have been "unfathomable" in light of the close relationship between the two that Novak would not have shared the information with Harper.

Teneycke made that categorical statement just before the Duffy trial heard compelling testimony that pointed to Novak being in the loop of Wright's initiative.

As a result, the last thread of Harper's version is now so frayed that it speaks to his lack of an alternative explanation that he is still hanging on to it for dear life.

For to continue to accept that version is also to accept two dubious propositions.

If voters ... are content to look the other way, how can they expect future governments to think twice about fooling Canadians into believing whatever best suits their partisan purpose?

One: that Novak — Harper's handpicked replacement for Wright — never read one of the most politically sensitive admissions a PMO chief of staff has ever put in an email or, alternatively, that he did not hear about it from those who read their mail.

Two: that his reported attendance at a meeting where the Duffy operation was discussed is a figment of the imagination of Ben Perrin, the former legal counsel to the PMO who testified to it under oath.

It has been argued that the reimbursement of Duffy's expenses and the behind-the-scenes manoeuvering that attended it barely qualify as a scandal.

On the scale of the fabricated evidence pertaining to the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq offered as a rationale for the 2003 U.S.-led offensive on that country, the Duffy affair would not necessarily register.

But that still leaves voters with two questions to ponder between now and the Oct. 19 election.

If Harper's most trusted aides — many of whom are still in place — were willing to use every lever at their disposal to lie their way out of an embarrassment to the Conservative party, how far would they go to sway public opinion on a matter of central importance to the government and the country?

And if voters — upon being presented with undeniable evidence of a high-level cover-up designed to mislead them — are content to look the other way, how can they expect future governments to think twice about the risks of fooling Canadians into believing whatever best serves their partisan purpose?

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: The mess on the moon

For a mere $12,000 US — not much more than a typical funeral — San Francisco-based company Elysium Space will lay some of your mortal remains, as ashes, to rest on the moon. The announcement of the service, released with great fanfare this week, doesn't mention concerns about polluting a celestial body that does not belong to us with earthly germs and debris. After all, there's still quite a lot of garbage, including dozens of bags of human excrement, left on the lunar surface from the Apollo missions. SOURCE: CBC

metroview

As an expatriate, I don't have the moral right to vote at home

Mike Donachie
Metro | Toronto

You're either in or you're out.

When it comes to deciding who forms a government, non-resident citizens are definitely out, and that includes me.

Here's how it works in this country: if you're Canadian and you haven't lived here for five years, you can't vote. That's it. Thank you and goodbye.

The issue became prominent in this federal campaign after the Ontario Court of Appeal decided the law should stay as is. This made Canadian actor Donald Sutherland unhappy; he resides stateside but he wants a ballot.

Sutherland argues he deserves a say because he identifies as Canadian. I disagree.

I'm a Scot and a British citizen, and I've been a permanent resident of Canada for 2-1/2 years. Despite leaving the U.K., I have a legal right to vote there in national elections until 15 years after my departure.

I don't exercise that right.

Don't misunderstand me: I know the value of it. I'm aware of the struggle by activists, across many years, to see universal suffrage established. People died to give me a great gift that I have chosen not to use.

I voluntarily abstained from voting in this spring's U.K. general election. And, last year, when Scots cast ballots on independence from the U.K., I was denied a say due to non-residence. I agreed that was right, though it broke my heart. Scotland voted "no," but I'm not giving my opinion. I don't live there.

And that's the point. I identify as Scottish. Anyone who knows me, and has tried to penetrate my accent, knows I'm about as Scottish as it gets. I'm engaged and informed and I miss the place. But I won't vote there.

In the '80s, Margaret Thatcher's government introduced ballots for expatriates even if they'd been gone for 20 years. It's reasonable to assume she expected to pick up votes from wealthy expats. The cynicism of that appalls me.

If you permanently leave a country, you should shut up. You can identify as anything, be it Scottish, Cornish or Viking, but if you decide to be resident elsewhere you stop being invested in that place, whether it's immediately, after five years or after 15. I think that connection starts diminishing within months, not years, and, if you vote, it's like you're voting from a past life.

A legal right is not a moral right and, unless you live with the consequences of an election, there in that place, it's wrong to interfere.

That applies in Canada, I would argue. Like Donald Sutherland, I don't have a vote here. But I do live here.

And one day, if I gain Canadian citizenship, I will vote with pride.

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Hot Dane! Cumberbatch's star on fire despite mixed reviews for Hamlet

BOOK EXCERPT LAWRENCE HILL'S THE ILLEGAL

'I'm just running to stay alive'

Author Lawrence Hill
LISA SAKULENSKY

The Illegal (HarperCollins, $34.99, Sept. 8) is Lawrence Hill's first work of fiction since his critically acclaimed novel The Book of Negroes.

The Illegal tells the story of Keita Ali. Running is all Keita's ever wanted to do. He's from Zantoroland, one of the poorest nations in the world, where running means respect. And riches, until Keita is targeted for his father's outspoken political views. He escapes into Freedom State, a wealthy island nation bent on deporting refugees. Keita can stay safe only if he keeps moving. As he trains in secret, eluding capture, the stakes keep getting higher.

EXCERPT FROM: THE ILLEGAL BY LAWRENCE HILL © 2015. PUBLISHED BY HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Weeks earlier, after Keita's first night in Clarkson — in a forty-dollar-a-night motel that did not demand ID because he paid cash up front — he had gone running in Ruddings Park.

A jogger recognized him as being of the same Faloo ethnicity and asked him to stop. Keita did so briefly, but he didn't give his name or tell the man where he was staying. He listened, though, when the man told him not to travel in cars. Not if he wanted to avoid the immigration cops. They stopped people in cars all the time, the man said, and always demanded the national citizenship card. If you didn't have it, they detained you until they could figure out where to deport you. Some people, he said, spent years in detention centres.

Keita thanked the man and said he had to keep moving. The man asked if he could run with Keita, just for a kilometre. He hadn't run with anyone since leaving Zantoroland, he said, and he missed it. Sure, Keita said. He began running again, slowly to accommodate the fellow.

"So," the jogger said, "have you heard of ZRA?" Keita said he hadn't.

"It's Zantorolanders Refugee Association. We want the government of Freedom State to hear our voices and to stop deporting people who are found without papers." The jogger tapped his shoulder familiarly, like a friend might have done back home. "We need people in the movement."

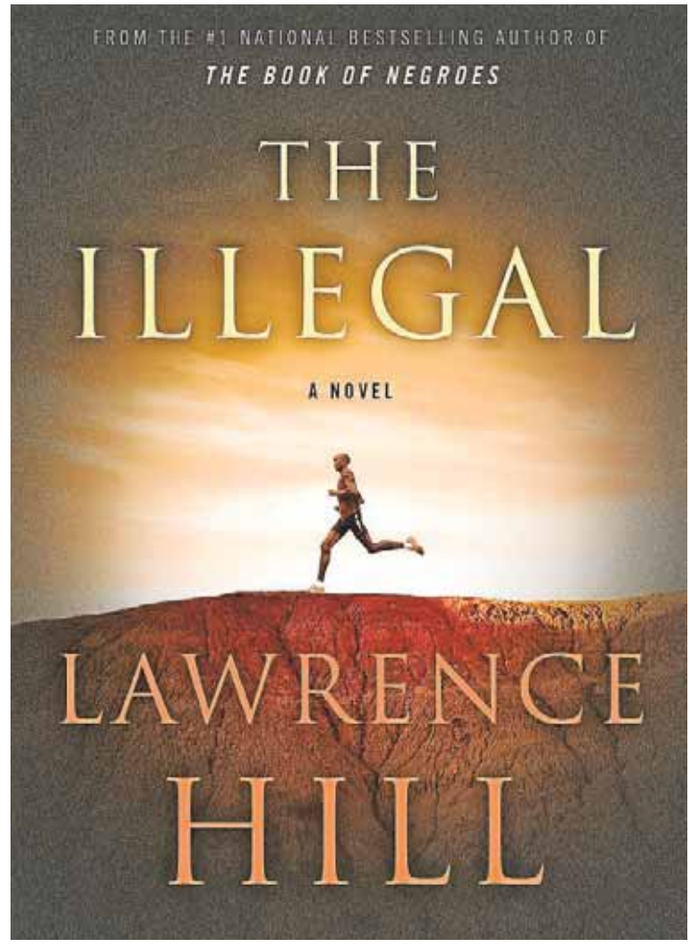
Keita nodded noncommittally.

"By the way, you run beautifully. Are you an elite marathoner?"

"I was. Now I'm just running to stay alive."

"You could be a role model for our cause."

"Sorry," Keita repeated, "but I can't help you right now." And with that, he accelerated and left the jogger behind.



Keita was heeding the advice not to travel by car. Though his muscles were aching, he was sitting at the back of a bus in the Buttersby station, waiting for it to depart for Clarkson. He had killed several hours in the pub, where he sat in a corner, facing a wall, nursing tea and shepherd's pie and hoping to avoid attention. Nobody knew his name or a thing about him, or cared if he was cold or hungry or afraid, but he feared that everyone noticed him.

Keita had boarded the bus the minute the doors opened. The less he was in public view, the better. He chose a window seat near the back. He had barely sat down when a boy — perhaps only twelve years old but travelling alone — took the seat beside him.

To take his mind off his troubles, Keita had turned on his iPod, put the buds in his ears and listened to a country song about a man with a broken heart.

I got the gotta have you
God I want you
Don't you wanna love me blues
Wait all day for you to call my name
But baby baby baby baby
You ain't got the blues the same
No
You ain't got the same.

Keita found it odd that here, in one of the richest nations of the world, bad grammar seemed acceptable in music. Still, the words and music were catchy, and he hummed along until a woman across the aisle gave him a nasty look. He stopped and unplugged the iPod. He had to be careful. One did not hum or sing in public in Freedom State — neither while walking around the street nor while sitting on a bus. People in this country took it as a sign of mental imbalance. To Keita, that itself was insanity.

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5 BOOKS TO READ THIS AUTUMN

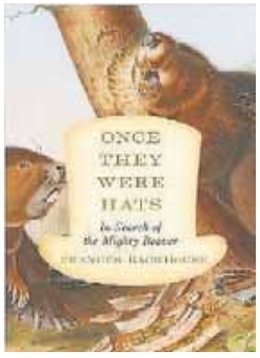
The fall publishing season can be overwhelming with its stacks of big-name authors and titles. Where exactly does one start, when new books by Margaret Atwood, Lawrence Hill and John Irving all demand reading? But if you're daring, and are looking for something a little unusual, perhaps the old adage about judging a book by its cover is worth a try. Based on design (and, of course, author pedigree), here are five titles worth adding to your reading list. **SUE CARTER** METRO

1 Suite Francaise: Storm in June by Emmanuel Moynot

translation David Homel

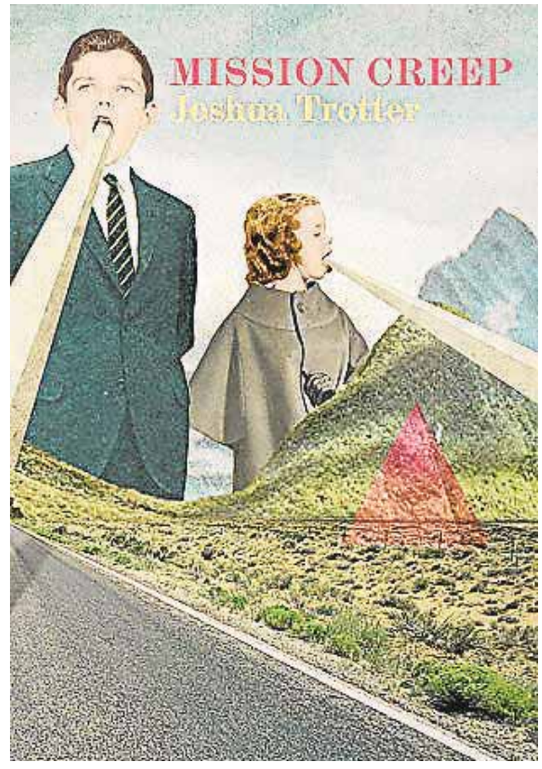
In 2004, more than 60 years after she died in Auschwitz, Irene Nemirovsky's posthumous novel Suite Francaise became an international blockbuster. This fall, her story about life in a French village just before the 1940 German invasion gets an illustrated adaptation from French author Emmanuel Moynot. The graphic novel is published by Vancouver's Arsenal Pulp Press, which had great success with another French comics translation, Julie Maroh's lesbian romance turned Cannes sensation, Blue is the Warmest Color.

2 Once They Were Hats: In Search of the Mighty Beaver by Frances Backhouse



This natural and sociological survey of our national animal should be popular with the Suzuki set, and covers more than 15,000 years of history.

Before the arrival of European fur traders and their love of fashionably warm headgear, there were more than 60 million of the sharp-toothed critters roaming around North America. Victoria writer Frances Backhouse examines our relationship with the beaver, how we nearly killed them off, and how we might successfully cohabit in the future.



3 Mission Creep by Joshua Trotter

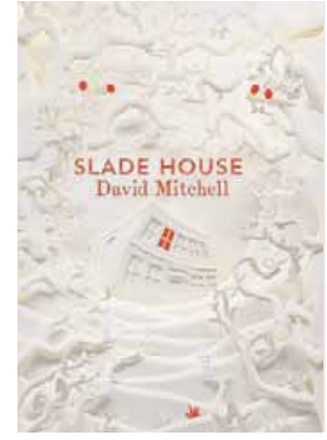
If there was an award for the most disturbing yet bizarrely hilarious cover this season, Joshua Trotter's new poetry collection by Coach House Books would make the shortlist. Even more intriguing are the book's origins. As source material, Trotter manipulated or "tortured" text taken from the CIA's interrogation manual using audio-editing tools, bringing in other voices such as 1970s stuntman Evil Knievel and philosopher Hannah Arendt.

4 Slade House by David Mitchell

It's a modern take on a horror story, with a social-media twist.

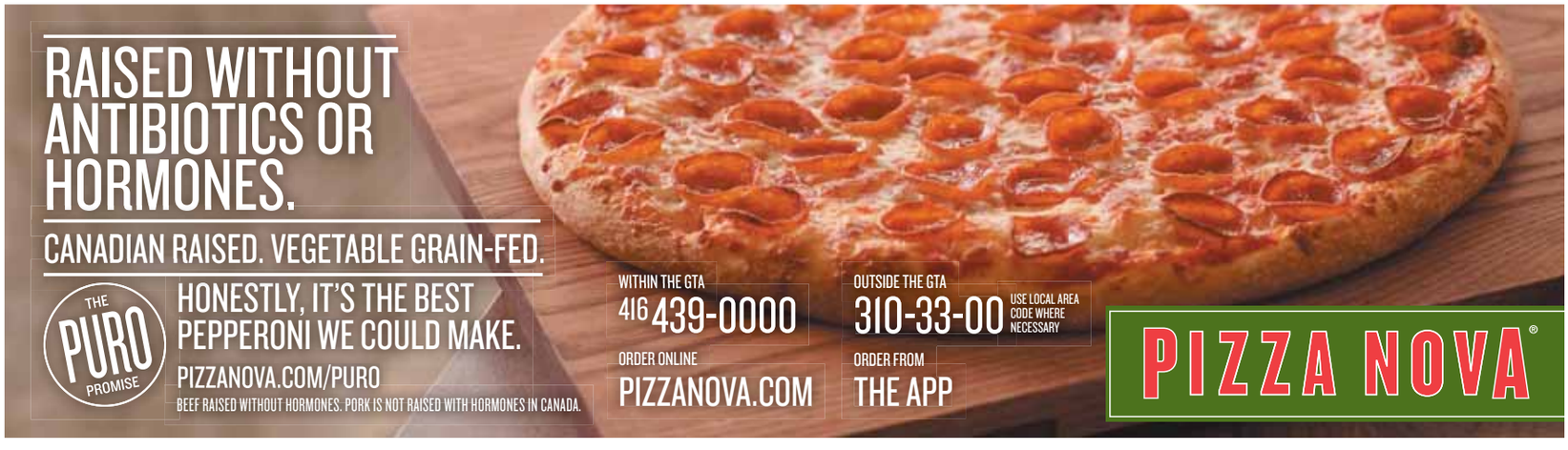
Cloud Atlas and The Bone Clocks author David Mitchell's gothic-sounding new novel began as a series of 280 tweets about a haunted residence that acts as a refuge for its "different or lonely" tenants.

Mitchell has plans to tweet more stories from one of Slade House's characters this fall, leading up to the book's release, which brilliantly happens around Halloween.



5 This is Your Life, Harriet Chance! by Jonathan Evison

Another kind of haunting takes place in Jonathan Evison's new novel, in which 79-year-old recent widow Harriet Chance embarks on an Alaskan cruise, only to make a huge discovery about the realities of her life. Meanwhile, her dead husband keeps popping up. Evison's first three novels have been bestsellers, so expect the same for Harriet.



RELATIONSHIPS

The odds of pairing up

A new book by business journalist Jon Birger blames lopsided gender ratios, not women, for bad luck on the dating front

Think Freakonomics meets Moneyball in Date-onomics, a by-the-numbers book on dating that argues advice-givers have it all wrong serving up tips for women on how to a find a man.

Business journalist Jon Birger has crunched the data on hetero singlehood and blames massively off-kilter gender ratios — not whether you do or do not return his first text — for the woes of women looking for their Mr. Rights.

Married 23 years with three kids, Birger took on the economics, sociology and demographics of dating to help women realize the hookup culture, a decline in marriage rates among the college educated and a dearth of marriage-worthy men willing to commit are byproducts of lopsided gender ratios.

New York City has 100,000 more women than men who are college educated and under 35, a fact not usually reported when dating-related issues are discussed in the media, Birger said. And he writes there's no gender ratio divide when it comes to many rural versus urban areas, or small towns versus big cities.

His hope? That the book, out in September from Workman, provides some comfort to those who blame themselves.

Here's what he had to say in a recent interview:

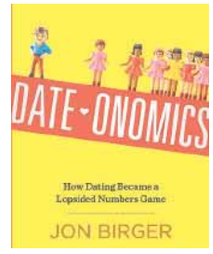
What myths are you trying to dispel?

I'm trying to offer another take different from what all the conventional dating advice books offer up. The message of a lot of these guides is that women are going about it all wrong. It's their fault, and my argument is it's not their fault. It's the demographics.

How did you conclude demographics never seem to be part of the conversation?

I just know a lot of single women, really wonderful, smart — they're good company — attractive women in their 30s and 40s who share with me various woes of their single lives, and the concept that the number of women in their dating market outnumber the number of men just never enters the conversation.

> **Men are more likely to play the field and delay marriage when women are in over-supply.**
> Author Jon Birger



Where is the deficit worst?

I know people who live in cities like New York think this is a phenomenon unique to them. But it's a national phenomenon. Nationally, among millennials, there are four college-grad women for every three college-grad men. In fact, the lopsidedness is actually worse in some rural states like Montana and West Virginia than it is in urban states like California and New York.

How do lopsided gender ratios impact behaviour?

In terms of the impact, it doesn't just make it statistically harder for educated women to find a match. It changes behaviour as well.

There's a ton of social science that's been done on sex ratios and the big takeaway is that men are more likely to play the field and delay marriage when women are in oversupply. A big argument of my book is that the college- and post-college hookup culture is largely a byproduct of these gender ratios.

What you see from the census data is that fully employed men age 25 to 30 who successfully marry earn 20 per cent more than fully employed men age 25 to 30 who are unmarried. There are academic studies on the same topic that reach the same conclusion, that a scarcity of women in this instance does lead men to earn more.

How do gender ratios play out on college campuses?

It's a long-term problem. Girls perform better in high school. They get better grades, they've been narrowing the gap and sometimes closing the gap on standardized tests, 70 per cent of valedictorians are women. Girls are better at college preparation and many colleges accept women at a higher rate.

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John C. Reilly to star in The Brothers Sisters

BOOKS ON SCREEN

American film an adaptation of Canadian author's novel

John C. Reilly will play the gunslinging Eli Sisters in The Brothers Sisters. GETTY IMAGES

Vancouver Island-born writer Patrick deWitt says Oscar-nominated actor John C. Reilly will star in a big-screen adaptation of his heralded novel The Sisters Brothers.

DeWitt said the film will be directed by acclaimed French filmmaker Jacques Audiard (Un prophete, Rust and Bone), who is also working on the screenplay.

"I'm really very happy with this team," deWitt said in a telephone interview to discuss his new novel, Undermajordomo Minor, which hits shelves Sept. 5.

"I think John's perfect for the role and I'm really curious to see what Jacques comes up with."

Reilly will play Eli Sisters, one of two gunslinging brothers en route to California in the gold-rush era of the 1850s.

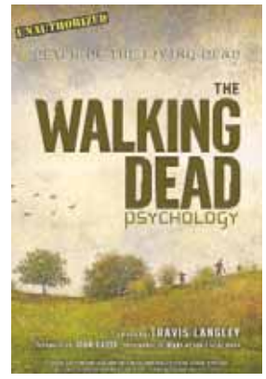
The comic western won a Governor General's Literary Award and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize in 2011. It also won the 2012 Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Scotiabank Giller Prize.

It was deWitt's second novel after 2009's Ablutions.

"I do like the idea of a non-American telling this story that is a very American story," said deWitt, who lives in Portland, Ore. "I really admire Jacque's movies, so this is exciting for me." THE CANADIAN PRESS

PSYCHOLOGY

Picking the brain of The Walking Dead



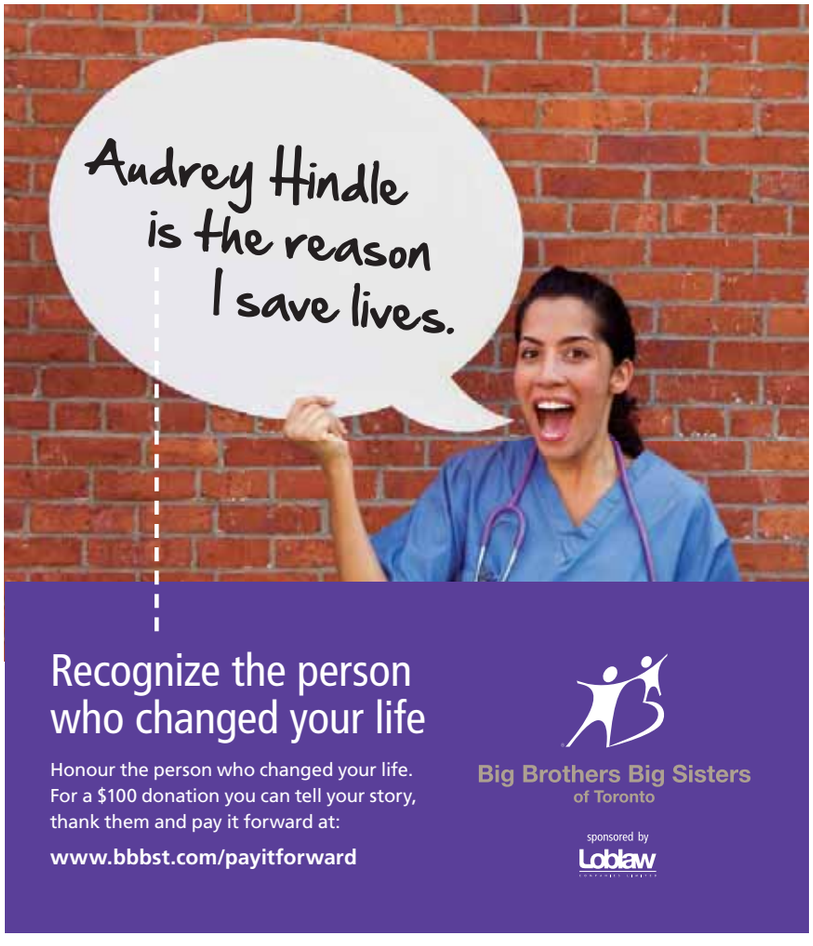
OK, Walking Dead fans, this one's for you. In The Walking Dead Psychology, Travis Langley examines what living in a post-apocalyptic world actually does to one's psyche.

As a fan, it's easy to just get caught up in the drama of the show without really thinking about what living in such a stressful, violent environment can do to a person. But Langley really gets into it, which helps you understand the characters even better. The book includes essays from Adam Davis, Colt J. Blunt and Megan Blink, among others. EMILY LAURENCE /METRO IN NEW YORK

IN BRIEF

New young adult novel gets big screen treatment

The debut novel by Nicola Yoon will be made into a movie by MGM studios, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Scriptwriter J. Mills Goodloe will take on the adaptation of Everything, Everything, a YA (young adult) novel centred around a 17-year-old girl with severe combined immunodeficiency — causing multiple allergies — which prevents her from leaving the house. Everything, Everything has been compared to other YA movies that tackle unusual yet reality-based issues facing young people, such as The Fault in Our Stars. The book Everything, Everything is out September 1. AFP



6 FAT FALL FASHION MAGAZINES

September issues heavy as newborns signal the arrival of fashion's most fabulous season. We thumbed past all of the ads to bring you the skinny on newsstand style favourites

HENRIETTA WALMARK/METRO

GENDER FLUID

F is for Flare over Fashion

Putting Victoria's Secret Angel models on its cover feels just a bit off as inside Fashion touts "gender as a non-issue" when it comes to working fall styles.

But Fashion gets some major love for key beauty looks like Max Mara's oversized cat eye glasses and fun 3D eye makeup. Flare meanwhile does "clothing that defies gender definition" with, well, more flair. Plus Flare features a fave porn stars story and a fashion future that includes Tinder-like shopping apps.

ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL

How Bazaar

"Masculine-feminine revolution." That's the Harper's Bazaar hype. But the mag's knack for breaking down key pieces and its wardrobe edits makes this season's abundance of looks seem totally doable IRL. Must-haves include a fur scarf, chunky heels and a bow blouse. A section on young designers to watch features the lovely juxtaposition of veteran model Lauren Hutton wearing their creations. Elsewhere there's The Art of the Retort, the very wittiest of accessories, and a Sharon Stone interview showcasing the Basic Instinct actress in no clothes at all.

Vogue's B game

Democracy and egalitarianism are driving fall's eclecticism, says editor Anna Wintour. We say just show us the pictures of OTT embellishment, off-season pastels and the '20s-inspired clothes gracing models including Toronto singer The Weeknd for a story about the hip-hop drama Empire. Canada gets another shout-out in a profile of Cindy Crawford at her Ontario cottage-country home where the canoe hangs over the dining room table and the former supermodel chills in a plaid shirt and cutoffs just like the rest of us.

TO THE MAX

Elle's belles

"Fashion is maximalist" is Elle Canada's fall maxim, and its September issue is where you'll discover that kitsch is cool again, more is more when it comes to accessories — just pile on all of granny's old brooches — and how to pair anti-fit pieces with classic tailoring. Plus an interview with cover girl and style icon Diane Kruger. Sister publication Elle celebrates its 30th anniversary more than this season's looks but the theme is the same: expressive, sensual, romantic maximalism that's wearable.

WHIMSY

Catwalk dancing

Cara's sense of fun has always made her stand out in the fashion crowd. Who else would you expect to see dancing down the catwalk alongside Joan Smalls for Stella McCartney's Autumn/Winter 2014 show?

ALL PHOTOS AFP/GETTY

CAMPAIGNS

Kate Moss colabs

From Burberry to Mango, the Mossy x Delevingne duo is one of our favourite fashion pairings in recent years. The two U.K. icons are both known for their quirky style, their strong personalities and their ability to break the mould. Plus, they both look amazing in trench coats.

MET GALA

Jumpsuits

Delevingne's refreshing sense of style means she isn't afraid to rock a daring jumpsuit on the red carpet, often teaming it with a bold beauty choice such as elaborate body tattoos, which she wore to the 2015 MET Gala.

More than meets the eyebrows

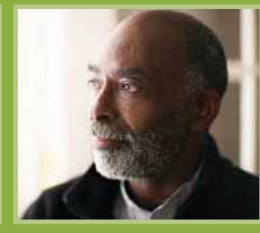
Is fashion's favourite wild child calling it quits? Cara Delevingne opened up in Time about the industry's flaws and focusing on her acting career, but she's stopped short of announcing a definitive retirement from the catwalk. We're holding out hope, because — apart from her eyebrows — look at what fashion would lose if she left. **AFP**

TOP SHOP

High Street glamour

She has walked the runway for some of the biggest fashion houses and was a muse of Karl Lagerfeld, but what we love most about Cara is her ability to bring her unique streak of cool to high street collections. Our favourite recent example is the Topshop Spring/Summer 2015 campaign, where she was spotted looking fierce in a white jumpsuit and silver heels.

FREE Adult Classes



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GOSSIP IN BRIEF KYLIE 'FLATTERED' BY SEXY SONG, POLICE TO REVIEW UNSAFE DRIVING CHARGES

Kylie Jenner OK with Tyga song

While the rest of us — and the Kardashian family — might have found Tyga's new track, Stimulated, which details his penchant for "penetrating" 18-year-old girlfriend Kylie Jenner, a little — um — disturbing, it turns out Jenner herself is totally fine with the track.

Flattered, even. "Kylie actually thought that the song was cute and knew about it before it came out," a source tells Radar Online. "It is her first true love and she is very much thinking that she will be with him forever." How ... sweet? But: "There is nothing that Tyga could ever do that would make Kylie walk away from him," the source explains. "She does not even try to argue with him because he has somehow convinced her that he is the best she will ever get, and she believes him." Sounds totally healthy, yeah. NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO

Manslaughter evidence reviewed

Prosecutors on Tuesday began reviewing evidence, considering whether charges should be filed against Caitlyn Jenner in a collision that killed a woman on a coastal California highway.

The case was being examined by the Los Angeles County district attorney's major crimes division, said Greg Risling, a spokesman for the district attorney's office. There was no timetable for when prosecutors will decide whether to file charges, he said.

Authorities said Jenner was driving a sport utility vehicle on Feb. 7 when it slammed into two cars on Pacific Coast Highway, pushing a Lexus driven by Kim Howe into oncoming traffic.

Howe, 69, died from her injuries, and her stepchildren are suing Jenner, an Olympic gold medallist.

Sheriff's investigators determined that Jenner, 65, was travelling at an unsafe speed for the road conditions at the time and the evidence supports a vehicular manslaughter charge, the department said last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARRIAGE

Vergara's man gets cold feet: Source

There may be troubling in paradise for soon-to-wed Sofia Vergara and Joe Manganiello, and it's reportedly all down to the groom-to-be's pre-wedding jitters. "Joe is low-key flipping out right now," a source tells Radar Online. "He said that he does not think he is ready, and all of his friends are telling him to calm down and that he is just having a case of the cold feet."

So what's the main cause of Manganiello's gripe? The scope of the event. "Sofia's having people fly in from all over the world, and two-thirds of the guests that are coming are invited by her. Joe keeps his circle very small," the source says. NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO

VMAS

Kanye's Vanguard

Kanye West

If you were worried that there might be fewer reasons for Kanye West's ego to keep itself inflated, rest easy.

MTV has announced that it is celebrating West with this year's Video Vanguard Award — basically the network's lifetime achievement award — at the VMAs. Previous recipients have included Michael Jackson — for whom the award is named — Madonna, Beastie Boys, U2 and Beyoncé.

I can only assume Taylor Swift will be getting it next year. NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO

Desperately seeking out of sitcom?

SEX IN THE CITY

Source says SJP really, really wanted off the HBO show

Ned Ehrbar

Sure, Sarah Jessica Parker did some career-defining work as Carrie Bradshaw on HBO's Sex in the City, but you would not believe how much she didn't want to do the show at first.

Or maybe you would, I don't know. I'm not a mind-reader.

But anyway, fellow thespian Seth Rudetsky just finished a production with Parker and her husband, Matthew Broderick, in Provincetown, Mass., and he's come home with some revelations from the lady herself that he's sharing over on Playbill.com.

Chief among them is the lengths Parker went to in order to try and get out of her Sex in the City contract.

"She was reluctant to do the pilot because she didn't really want to do a series. However, she loved the script so she filmed it and then forgot about it," Rudetsky writes.

"Months later she found out the show was picked up and she completely wanted to get out of it. I mean, completely."

So, completely, then?

"She tried various ways to get out of it including telling HBO that she would film three projects for free if they'd release her from her contract," he reveals.

That's pretty severe, as far as negotiating tactics go.

Seth Rudetsky claims that early on, Sarah Jessica Parker went to great lengths to get out of her Sex in the City contract.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO, ALL OTHER PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Get schooled in smartphones

Mike Yawney
For Metro

Smartphones have replaced many of the school supplies we used to tote to the classroom each fall.

They are our new scientific calculators, voice recorders, encyclopedias and dictionaries. Here are some of the best smartphones for students returning to school this September.

IPHONE 6 PLUS
$969 (NO CONTRACT)

A thin and light smartphone with a beautiful screen, Apple's iPhone 6 Plus is a powerhouse.

The 5.5-inch screen not only boasts incredible resolution, but gives students enough on-screen real estate to get work done. With hundreds of thousands of apps, your iPhone can be used for just about anything. On top of all this, the built-in M8 motion coprocessor tracks movement to help students achieve their fitness goals, as well as get good grades.

MOTO G
$199 (NO CONTRACT)

Rugged and durable, Motorola's latest smartphone is perfect for the student lifestyle. Toss it in a locker, or pitch it in a backpack, the smartphone will withstand almost anything a student throws at it. The Moto G is water resistant to protect it against leaking drinks, and the Gorilla Glass will ensure the screen remains free of scratches. Students can also customize the look of this Android phone with Motorola Shells, which come in a variety of colours and materials.

LG G4
$699.99 (NO CONTRACT)

The perfect phone for students who love to document life on campus. The 16-megapixel rear camera takes incredible photos even in low light, while the front-facing 8-megapixel camera is perfect for selfies or pictures with friends. The front camera also records in full 1080p HD, creating bright and vibrant video messages and videos for family and friends, near or far. This phone also features a manual camera mode, giving users ultimate control over their photos.

SONY XPERIA M4 AQUA
$300
(NO CONTRACT)

Remember the days when cellphones lasted more than a day on a single charge? Sony takes us back to a time when battery life mattered with this Android handset. A single charge will last two days, ensuring you never hear the phrase "sorry, my phone died" from your teen ever again. Not only is it waterproof, it's also dust proof, ensuring no annoying specs get under the glass screen.

SAMSUNG GALAXY S6 EDGE
$849.99
(NO CONTRACT)

A stylish smartphone that stands out from the crowd with a screen unlike any you have ever seen. By wrapping around the outer edges, the screen not only gives more space to work on, you can also see notifications even if your phone is sitting face down on your desk. The rapid-charge feature gives you four hours worth of use after just 10 minutes of plugging it in. If you purchase a charge pad, you can take advantage of the wireless charge feature, which gets rid of annoying cables.

ASUS ZENFONE 2
$379.99 (NO CONTRACT)

This beautiful smartphone not only looks stylish, but is ergonomically designed to fit comfortably in your hand. Not only does this phone feature a quad-core processor, it's also the world's first to feature up to 4GB of dual-channel DDR3 RAM, ensuring it handles any app or task you throw at it with ease. The 13-megapixel camera features a Super HDR mode, which expands the dynamic range by four times, allowing you to snap photos of your friends in ultra-bright environments, even in front of a setting sun, with amazing results.

HTC ONE M9
$699.95
(NO CONTRACT)

All work and no play makes for a boring student life. This Android device is ideal for not only school work, but for everything else that happens after class. With access to the Google Play store, you have all the apps you could ever need. When the work is done, enjoy movies and videos with dual front speakers, which give immersive sound unlike anything you've ever heard before on a smartphone.

Clockwise, from top left: LG G4, $699.99; Samsung Galaxy S6 EDGE, $849.99; Sony Xperia M4 Aqua, $300; iPhone 6 Plus, $969; HTC One M9, $699.95; Moto G, $199.

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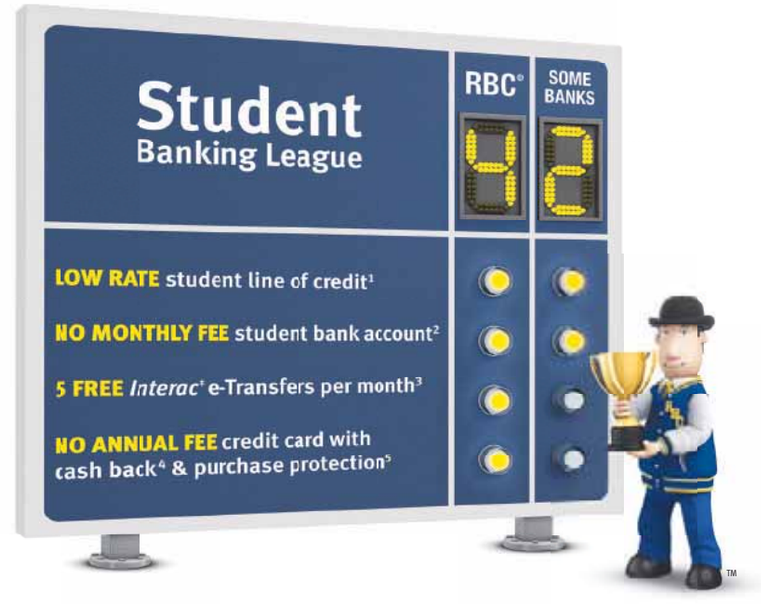

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Handling diversity

With new program at Sheridan College

Diversity and inclusion is something most people support as a principle, but many struggle with its application in the workplace.

The new diversity management course series offered by Sheridan College will teach participants how to handle these elements in any organization or workplace.

"If you take the TTC, you only have to look around to realize how much diversity there is in Toronto," says Yasmin Meralli, president, Pluralism Performance Inc., and expert responsible for contributing to the development of the new diversity management course series.

"But it takes effort and skill to move from diversity to inclusion."

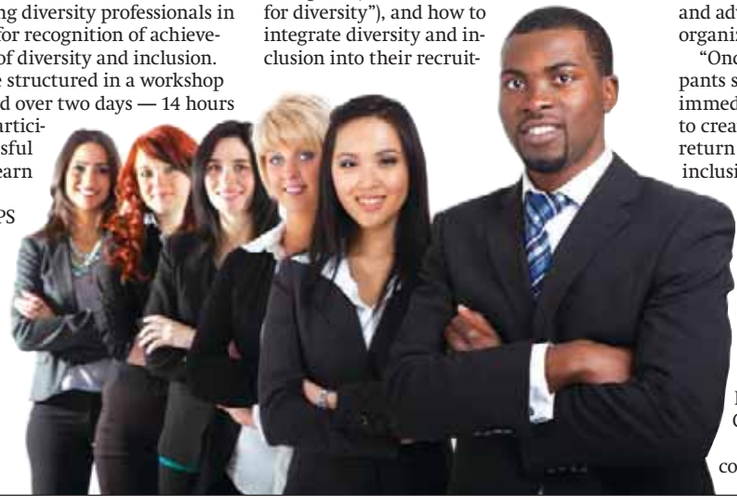
This course series was created to meet the demand of growing diversity professionals in Ontario, looking for recognition of achievement in the area of diversity and inclusion.

The courses are structured in a workshop format and offered over two days — 14 hours — whereby the participant, upon successful completion, will earn a credit.

"Sheridan FCAPS recognizes that life is incredibly busy for most people and efficient learning is paramount," Meralli says.

The course series is designed to be hands-on and simulation-based — there will be many opportunities to learn through case studies, group work, and role play.

Course participants will learn how to articulate why diversity matters in the workplace ("the business case for diversity"), and how to integrate diversity and inclusion into their recruitment, employee development and retention strategies.



They will acquire a set of tools, techniques, and resources geared toward outcomes, which they can tap into to support and advance diversity and inclusion in their organizations.

"Once they complete the course, participants should be able to apply their learning immediately," Meralli says. "Our hope is to create a network of graduates who will return to their workplaces and help create inclusive workplaces."

These courses will be of interest to people who have studied human resources management, business, project management and leadership development series.

The courses are valuable to individuals with careers in business and project management and human resources, especially people who are in HR leadership positions or have their CHRL designation.

For more information about this course series, visit sheridancollege.ca.

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BALANCING BODY AND MIND

DELVE DEEPER INTO YOGA AT GEORGE BROWN

Sandria Papajanisz remembers feeling intimidated by studio-based or retreat courses that taught yogis how to be teachers. George Brown College's classical yoga teacher certificate program changed all that.

"I found the offering while searching online and was immediately attracted to the schedule, as well as the balance of philosophy and physical yoga practice," says Papajanisz, who completed the program in July. "The almost 50-50 split between the two was unique to George Brown."

Offered in the evening through continuing education and intended for those who wish to teach classical yoga to the community at large, the program focuses on skills and techniques used to develop an awareness of mind and body through seven compulsory courses. It covers topics such as meditation, anatomy and physiology, yoga history and philosophy, and teaching methodologies.

"The balance of yoga philosophy and practice is often intertwined and taught me the importance of body and mind balance in any practice," Papajanisz says. "The philosophy portion, although directly related to my yoga practice and teaching experience, also helped me in other parts of my life. In terms of the practical aspects, we dissected each pose — muscles used, benefits and counter-indications — and applied them to sequencing."

CONTRIBUTED

Papajanisz says George Brown's program, while ensuring a solid foundation, also goes beyond the classroom and teaches students about the yoga community.

"It is up to you to find the parts that challenge and interest you and delve deeper," she says. "In that regard, I don't think I will ever be truly done learning about yoga. The program did, however, give me a strong basis of information on which to build my own practice."

The recent graduate, who has a behavioural therapist background, hopes to incorporate yoga into her work with autistic children. She credits the idea of combining yoga with behavioural therapy from hearing her instructors' experiences.

"We had instructors who had different strengths — philosophy, mantra practice, physical practice, anatomy," she says.

"Having that balance really drove home that yoga is a vast practice and it's important to find your niche."

TIPS TO SUCCEED

Do you want to enrol in the George Brown College classical yoga teacher certificate program? Here are Sandria Papajanisz's tips to succeed in the program.

1. Expect that it will take over your life — in a good way. There is more work than you may think and it changes the way you think.
2. Ensure you are practising on your own. It isn't sufficient to practise in class and expect to be able to teach.
3. Expect the program to open your eyes to the yoga world. Know that you will have the opportunity to be creative about your own practice.

John Quaggin says George Brown College instructors give students the skills and capabilities to succeed with their studies. CONTRIBUTED

Mature students in a mature environment

While most students at George Brown College finish final exams and breathe a sigh of relief, paralegal certificate students face the added challenge of a licensing exam. However, says one graduate, the program's hands-on learning approach, collegial atmosphere and experienced instructors are the ideal combination for success.

"George Brown's instructors, administration and program director really focus on and appreciate that students have to write the exam, and give us the skills and capabilities to do that," says John Quaggin of the preparation for the exam by the Law Society of Upper Canada, which, in Ontario, regulates the profession.

Having graduated in April 2014 and written the licensing exam three months later, Quaggin says the program not only exposes students to the areas of law in which paralegals practice, but also ensures students grasp concepts such as ethical obligation to clients through interactive methods.

"Students are continuously given the opportunity to provide representation on the basis of fictitious scenarios," Quaggin says of the offering's mock trials. "This helps with advocacy, research and drafting skills while offering real constructive criticism from teachers, many of whom are senior practitioners."

The program spans topics such as administrative law, the evidence and litigation process, torts and contracts, and legal accounting, and includes a field placement. But Quaggin says professionalism starts well before placement.

"What is interesting and distinguishes George Brown is that we're talking about mature students in a mature environment," he says. "To combine student interaction with like-minded mature students and the ability to approach instructors was a tremendously valuable experience."

Quaggin, who is a private practitioner focusing on small claims court and the landlord and tenant board, credits the community environment to his post-graduate success.

"One of its greatest benefits is that the program provided me an opportunity to familiarize myself and establish relationships with other mature students," he says. "The people I met have been an ongoing resource as I establish myself and serve my clients."

MAXIMIZING ONLINE STUDIES

CONTRIBUTED

While online learning offers convenience and flexibility to those who are unable to attend classes in person, it does take a considerable amount of discipline to be successful at it.

Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, dean, The Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University, has a few tips on how to manage your time effectively and make the most out of your online studies.

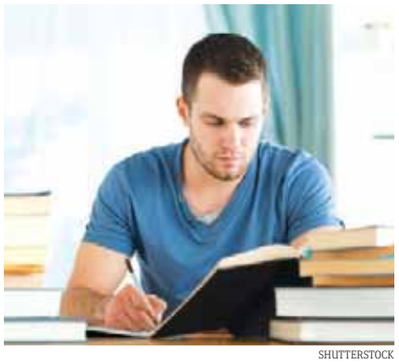
"Work out a time in your schedule that you can stick to each week in order to meet class deliverables," Bountrogianni says. "Remember, even though you do not need to attend a physical classroom, it is important to participate and be truly present in the 'virtual classroom' to get the most out of a course."

She adds that a regular routine of logging in to review the course materials and post to a discussion board will provide the best online experience.

The Chang School prioritizes accessibility and flexibility by offering a variety of learning formats including in-person, online, or blended hybrid classes (offering a combination of online and in-person formats), daytime, evening, and weekend classes, and intensive boot camp-style and fast-track programs.

This fall, The Chang School is launching a number of new course series.

For more information about The Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University, visit ryerson.ca/ce.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Set goals, focus your efforts before the start of school

Entering college or university can be one of the most daunting experiences in a young person's life. So with a new academic year upon us, here are some tips for students beginning their post-secondary journeys this September.

SET GOALS FOR THE YEAR. The first month of school will be a blur so before September hits, write down your goals to help focus your efforts.

"Take some time to reflect about what it is (you) want to accomplish," says Cheryl Shook, assistant principal at Woodsworth College, University of Toronto. "For instance, 'I want to do well academically,' or 'I want to meet new and interesting people.'"

ATTEND ORIENTATION EVENTS. This is one of the best ways to overcome that initial feeling of being lost, says Joel Aspden, a campus ambassador at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

"It's also a great opportunity to, before you hit the books and have to start worrying about that, to get a personal feel and talk one-on-one with current students about that transition (from secondary to post-secondary)."

ASK QUESTIONS. Students sometimes find it tough to seek assistance, Shook says. But students need to be proactive when it comes to figuring out post-secondary life.

ESTABLISH YOUR COMMUNITY. Finding people with common interests is a great way to feel more grounded and secure on campus.

– Daniel Squizzato

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Make your education work for you

At the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies

Making education work for you is what University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies does best.

The University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies understands that most people cannot stop their lives to head back to school full time, but also understands that people who are looking to better their careers or get started in a new one still need flexible learning options to obtain these desired skills.

That is why the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies offers individuals the chance to make their education work for them through more personalized education.

"We are trying to listen to what our students want and what works for them and make sure each student who chooses to come and learn sees an impact and that there is a return on investment," says Marilynn Booth, dean, University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies.

Individuals can choose from a number of delivery methods at the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies to ensure they are getting their education in a way that will be easier for them to succeed down the road.

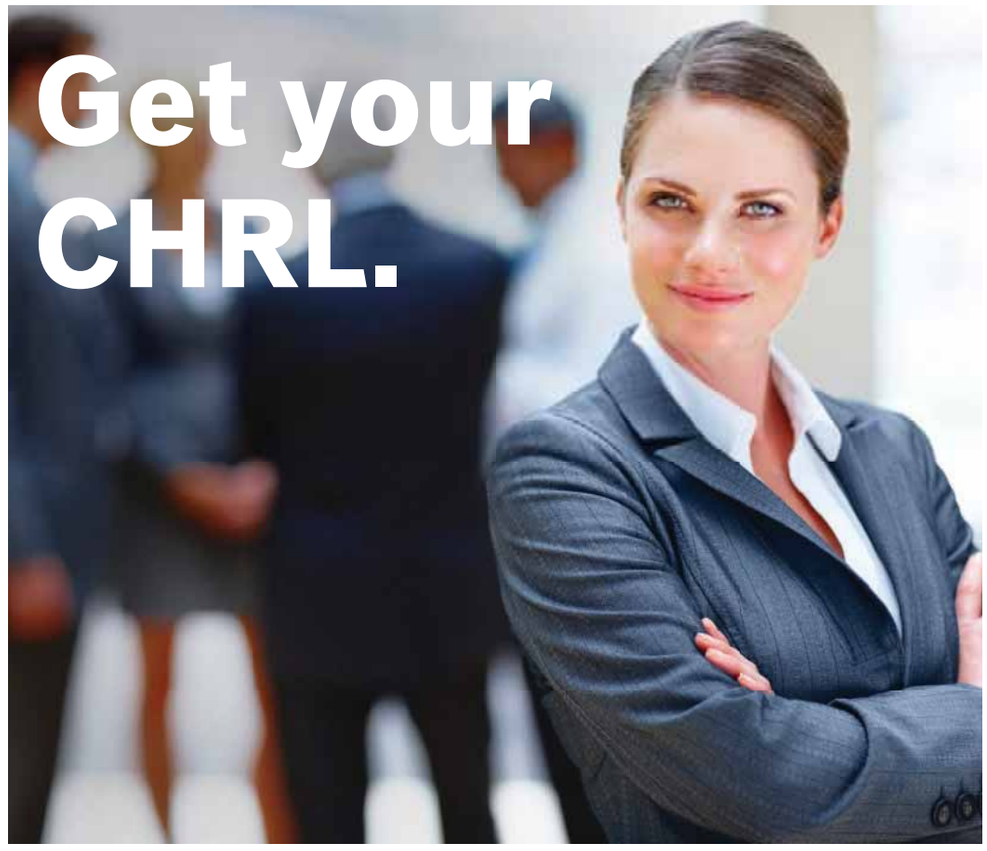
Many of the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies courses and programs are offered either online, in person, or through a hybrid delivery format.

Booth says the key to offering the best education to its students is by being aware of what the current needs of the industry are and being able to provide training that will assist in filling the talent gap.

New this fall, the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies is offering a certificate in leadership for impact in the non-profit sector to help fill the talent gap in this field.

Another new program this fall is the multimedia storytelling certificate that will help individuals learn how to create compelling stories through world-class multimedia campaigns.

For more information about how you can personalize your education at the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies, visit learn.utoronto.ca.



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caps.sheridancollege.ca

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Faculty of Continuing and Professional Studies

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EXPAND, ENRICH YOUR KNOWLEDGE

If you are looking for a way to advance your career, find personal fulfilment or want to pursue a graduate education while thinking across boundaries and disciplines, Seneca College has the solution, says the institution's chair of English and liberal studies.

"This degree will appeal to individuals who are looking to build on their vocational knowledge and skills and will provide them with a liberal arts education, which is becoming increasingly sought after by employers," says Fiona Bain-Greenwood of the bachelor of interdisciplinary studies program, a combination of arts and liberal studies.

"It was designed to enable people who already had completed post-secondary education to expand and enrich their knowledge by developing critical thinking and core research skills.

"Students in the program have said they love the personalized approach to determining academic pathways, the small class sizes, excellent faculty and the flexibility," she says.

For more, visit senecacollege.ca.

CONTRIBUTED

Enjoy the convenience of the Eglinton Learning Site

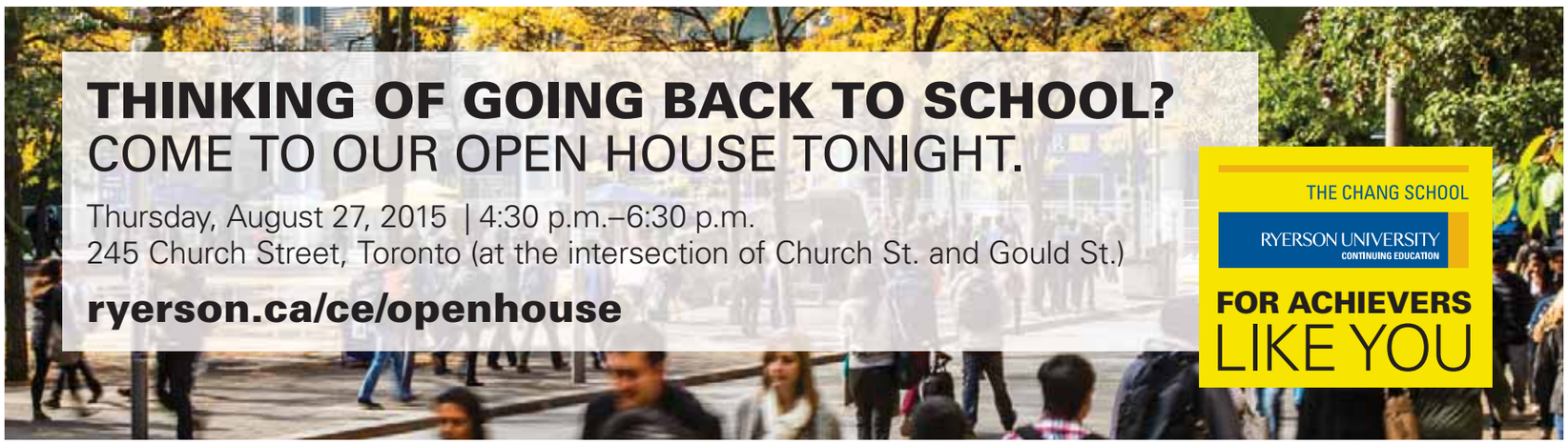
Among the hustle and bustle of restaurants, stores and movie theatres at Yonge and Eglinton sits Centennial College's newest academic space. Aptly name the Eglinton Learning Site, it is, however, quite the opposite of the busy area that surrounds it.

"It's even more intimate than our four main campuses," says Tim Roy, chair of business development for Centennial's school of continuing education. "It's a smaller spot, so you have a great opportunity to connect with your instructors. It really has an air of professionalism."

Opened in April 2014, the Learning Site facilitates an English language learning program during the day and continuing education offerings such as teaching English as a second language (TESL) and compliance and governance on evenings and weekends. Roy says it is the ideal location for those who may find travelling to Centennial's east-end campuses difficult.

"The most obvious benefit to studying at Yonge and Eg is the convenience for someone who lives and commutes along the Yonge subway line," he says. "Someone who works downtown can stop into classes on his way home in the evening. This opens us up to serving people living in different parts of the city. We also love that we're in this new neighbourhood, which is so dynamic. In addition to studying, you can get errands done and enjoy the area."

For more, visit centennialcollege.ca.



LEARNING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Meet Jessica, John, Faye, Sarah, Damien and Eliss – just a few of the people who have achieved success with the help of our Continuing Education courses. The skills, connections and confidence they gained made it possible for them to achieve their goals. Read their stories on our website, and see the difference you can make in your own life with George Brown College.

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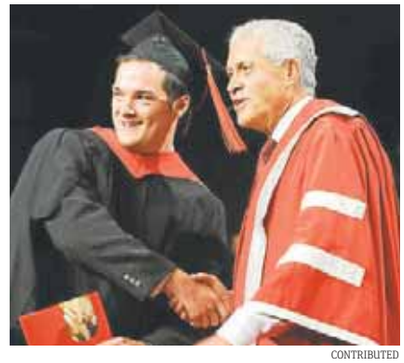

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The university system in Canada, in general, is designed to meet the needs of young, full-time students.

Consequently, the system presents challenges for working adults who desire to go back to university.

Some of these challenges are insurmountable for adults and prevent them from starting or completing a part-time degree.

"At York University, we've identified the gaps and have designed N.O.W. Plus pathway for mature students to meet the unique needs of working adults," says Tracey Taylor-O'Reilly, founding executive director, York University school of continuing studies.

"N.O.W." stands for nights, online and weekends.

"Adult students can use any combination of these, plus daytime courses if they choose, to work university degree studies into their lives," Taylor-O'Reilly says.

The "Plus" relates to filling the rest of the gaps — specifically, removing the barriers that prevent adults from attending university and the frustrations that cause them to leave.

"At the school of continuing studies, we understand the needs of working adults," Taylor-O'Reilly says. "N.O.W. Plus is designed to make the university experience as seamless as possible."

Two degrees are currently offered through the N.O.W. Plus pathway — the 90-credit bachelor of administrative studies, and the 90-credit bachelor of human resources management.

For more, visit yorku.ca/nowplus.

SHUTTERSTOCK

Keep your health-care skills up-to-date at Michener

Health care in Ontario is rapidly changing. As patient needs evolve with an aging population, as technology continues to develop and as advances are made to health-care delivery, the professional roles of health-care providers will change as well. More than ever, health-care professionals face a pressing need to keep their skills up-to-date to meet the demands of an evolving health-care system.

To meet these demands, continuing education at The Michener Institute provides professional development opportunities to health-care workers through an array of graduate certificates and specialty programs, simulation-enhanced workshops, online education and flexible learning options.

Michener has worked to be the education solution provider for Ontario's health system, meeting the needs of health-care workers across the province and beyond.

"By keeping a finger on the pulse of a changing, patient-centred health-care system, continuing education at Michener is contributing to a better health-care system for providers and for patients across Ontario," says Gillian Nichol, director of continuing education.

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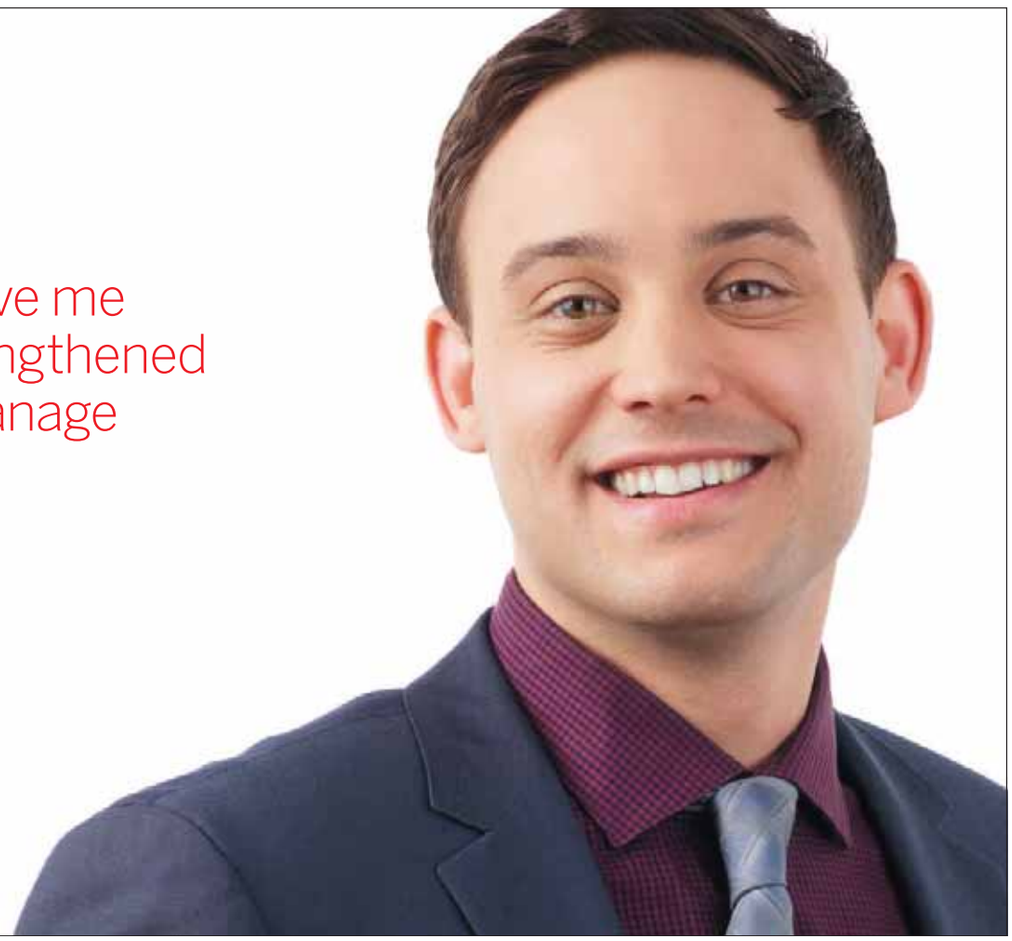

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TECHNOLOGY

Home theatre options for condos go Ultra HD, wireless

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister

For many new condo owners, a decent entertainment system is not an option; it's a must-have amenity. For those of you who want to deck out your suite with the latest audio-visual technology, there are many options tailored for small-space environments.

As living spaces are getting smaller, so are home entertainment systems. Gone are the days of massive speaker cabinets and hefty power amplifiers. Space-saving audiophile-grade sound systems have gone mini and wireless.

The most popular components for condos this year include Ultra High Definition 4K televisions, wireless streaming soundbars and subwoofers. Ultra-HD ramps up the resolution, colour and contrast of TVs well beyond that of HD and regular 4K. Systems from Sony and Samsung range in size from 40" to a mammoth 85".

Developers are now offering condo wiring packages as an option, which includes built-in cabling for in-wall speakers, video and computer networking, and outlets in every room. For those without flexible cabling options, wireless is the way to go. It allows flexibility and growth in a condo environment.

Chris Rose is a technical specialist at Toronto's Bay Bloor Radio. The popular Yorkville showroom is a veritable wonderland of best-in-class audio visual products. Smack-dab in the middle of the Yonge-Bay condo alley, it's no surprise that many of their customers are highrise dwellers.

"TV is still the primary source of entertainment to this day," says Rose.

"Condo owners want a combination unit that not only does sound from the TV, but also gives them the ability of entertaining and streaming music." Almost all sound systems and smart TVs today are wireless and have the ability to stream content from the Internet.

Sonos is a leader in wireless sound technology. Their modular systems and components network wirelessly together. Rose calls it "electronic Lego."

A good, three-component Sonos system would adequately cover a one-bedroom condo, giving flexibility for future expansion, he says. The Sonos PLAYBAR television soundbar with streaming music and a SUB wireless subwoofer round out the living-room entertainment system and a PLAY:1 compact wireless speaker serves as the bedroom system.

"The new smart TVs now have 4K streaming from Netflix, so you get to see far higher resolutions than what we've ever seen in the past," says Rose.

"And they're very easy to use with an application on the iPhone or an Android device. It's not complicated to set these things up anymore."

A typical condo living room scenario featuring a Sony Bravia Ultra-HD 4K television and Sonos wireless audio system. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

A Sony 43" 4K Ultra High Definition TV. These smart sets have Android and wireless streaming built-in. They're thin and lightweight and resemble a picture frame. THE SONY STORE

The Sonos PLAYBAR is a self-contained, wireless sound system that sits underneath your flat-panel TV. It communicates wirelessly with other Sonos components and even streams Internet music. SONOS

OUTDOOR SPACES

Landscaping is key to connecting communities creatively

Bryan Tuckey

Is there an exceptional outdoor space in your neighbourhood that has an inviting entryway, a beautiful tree canopy, cobblestone streets or lighting embedded in a landscape of plants and flowers?

Perhaps this space is connecting buildings, homes and businesses to the street below or it's bridging two neighbourhoods.

There is a science behind designing these special outdoor spaces that people enjoy. Landscaping and public spaces are an essential part of building complete communities that are made up of more than just the buildings, and landscape architecture is often what brings everything together.

It is also valuable to the economy, with the impact of the Canadian horticulture sector pegged at close to $15 billion and Ontario the largest contributor, according to Landscape Ontario.

Landscaping and designing outdoor space around buildings is increasingly being viewed as a way to activate the public realm and a creative way to integrate new spaces into existing communities.

One unique example, designed by BILD member The Planning Partnership, is Underpass Park in Toronto's east end. The 2.5-acre space was a derelict space underneath the Eastern Avenue, Richmond and Adelaide Streets overpasses. Now, it is a welcoming space featuring a mirrored ceiling, a playground, benches, lighting, public art and gathering space. Most importantly, the park has created a connection for neighbourhoods that were previously divided and isolated.

There are many examples of these important urban resources across the GTA and it's the development industry that designs, constructs and maintains these spaces enjoyed by the public.

Another example is the leafy courtyard nestled in between the two condominium towers on the southeast corner of Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue built by BILD member Minto Communities. Anyone, not just the residents, can enjoy the courtyard's fountain, have a seat on one of the benches or use the walkways encircling the space.

As well, landscape elements not only improve the esthetic, but they can also help communities be more environmentally friendly by using innovative solutions to improve water conservation, capture rain run-off and use plants to help clean the air.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

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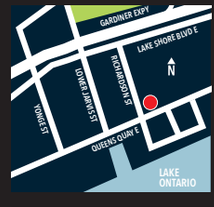

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Harbour on the rise

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Cityzen's new condominium project is located at the water's edge at the foot of Yonge Street. The Pier 27 Tower on the Lake will add to the existing Pier 27 community, a thriving waterfront development steps from downtown Toronto.

Building amenities

Residents have access to a large swimming pool on the 13th-floor terrace. There's a games room, theatre, a party room and expansive rooftop terrace. Fitness facilities include exercise and yoga rooms custom-programmed by Movement Haus.

Location and transit

Pier 27 is at the centre of revitalization with a new streetcar line, bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly walkways. The subway and streetcar are nearby, as is Union Station, GO Transit, VIA Rail, the Union Pearson Express and Billy Bishop Airport.

In the neighbourhood

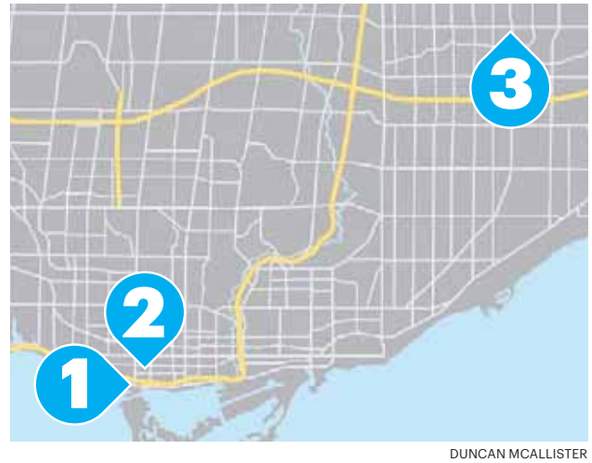
The financial and entertainment districts and St. Lawrence market are within walking distance, as well as restaurants and grocery stores, the Rogers Centre, Air Canada Centre, Sugar Beach, Sherbourne Common and the Martin Goodman Trail.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: Pier 27 Tower on the Lake
Builder: Cityzen Development and Fernbrook Homes
Architect: Peter Clewes, architectsAlliance
Interiors: Peter Clewes
Location: Queen's Quay east of Yonge Street
Building: 35 storeys with approximately 418 suites
Sizes: From 450 to 1,220 sq. ft.
Pricing: Starting from the mid-$300,000s
Suites: Studio, one bedroom, one bedroom plus den, two bedroom, two bedroom plus den, three bedroom
Status: Pre-registration
Sales centre: 25 Queens Quay E.
Hours: By appointment
Phone: 416-367-3456
Website: pier27tower.com

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 FORT YORK

Open house: Showing this weekend is a one-bedroom suite at Malibu condos in the Fort York neighbourhood. Head over to 600 Fleet St., Aug. 29 and 30 from 1 to 4 p.m.
CONTACT: MATT DABIRI-KASHKOULI, 416-897-6524

2 QUEEN WEST

Grand opening: Tridel has just launched a new downtown presentation centre at Queen and Spadina. Check out SQ2 condos at 519 Queen St. W.
CONTACT: 416-661-1949, TRIDEL.COM/SQ2

3 SCARBOROUGH

Open house: Here's a bright, three-bedroom condo suite in Agincourt North. Head over to 5001 Finch Ave. E., on Aug. 29 from 12 to 2 p.m. and Aug. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m.
CONTACT: STEPHANIE PAU, 416-300-3386

Fashionable tech for the fall

DESIGN CENTRE

Karl Lohnes

It's back to school time and that means outfitting your dorm room (and yourself) with some styling accessories. I recently discovered iStore, a new tech accessories retailer offering fashion-forward wearables, products for the home, along with entertainment and mobile devices. They've got 13 locations to help make being geeky ultra cool, whether it be for back to school or work. Check out a few of my faves at iStoreWorld.com.

1 Kate Spade Hard Shell
Wrap your phone in one of the most wanted names in fashion. $45

2 MiPow Playbulb Candle
A LED votive candle that's also a safe nightlight. Brightness and colours can change by simply downloading an app on your smartphone. $30

3 Herschel Little America Backpack
Old-school durability with a built-in padded laptop sleeve and easy-access media pocket. $100

4 Felix TwoHands Tablet Stand
Let your laptop or tablet stand at the perfect viewing angle by clipping on these extra set of hands. $25

5 Bang & Olufsen BeoPlay A2
This portable speaker gets an A-plus for sound and style. $500

6 180s Earwarmers
Not only will your ears be cosy on the way to class, you can listen to your favourite tunes via Bluetooth technology. $80

ADVICE

Navigating out-of-town purchases

LEGAL MATTERS

Jeffrey Cowan

Q: I am purchasing a house in my hometown and it is closing in a few days. I presently live several hundred miles away from my purchase and my new home.

My lawyer for this purchase has sent me the documents that need to be signed before the closing and she is insisting that they be signed in front of a local lawyer.

I have dealt with my home law firm for several transactions and I don't understand why I have to hire another lawyer just to watch me sign documents that are being sent off to my home lawyer. Can you shed some light on this?

A: Most law societies in Canada require that your lawyer obtain identification from each client for each file and that the client present themselves at their office to execute any documents that are involved in the transaction: whether it is a complex commercial transaction or a straightforward home purchase.

If you are out of town, your lawyer has to rely upon another lawyer whom they engage to act on their behalf. This stringency is primarily due to the amount of real estate fraud that is occurring. The general guideline for lawyers is "always know your client."

In your case, even though you have done several transactions with your home lawyer, you still need to prove that you are who you are to the lawyer in your remote location and with whom you are signing closing documents. He or she doesn't know you.

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metro SPORTS
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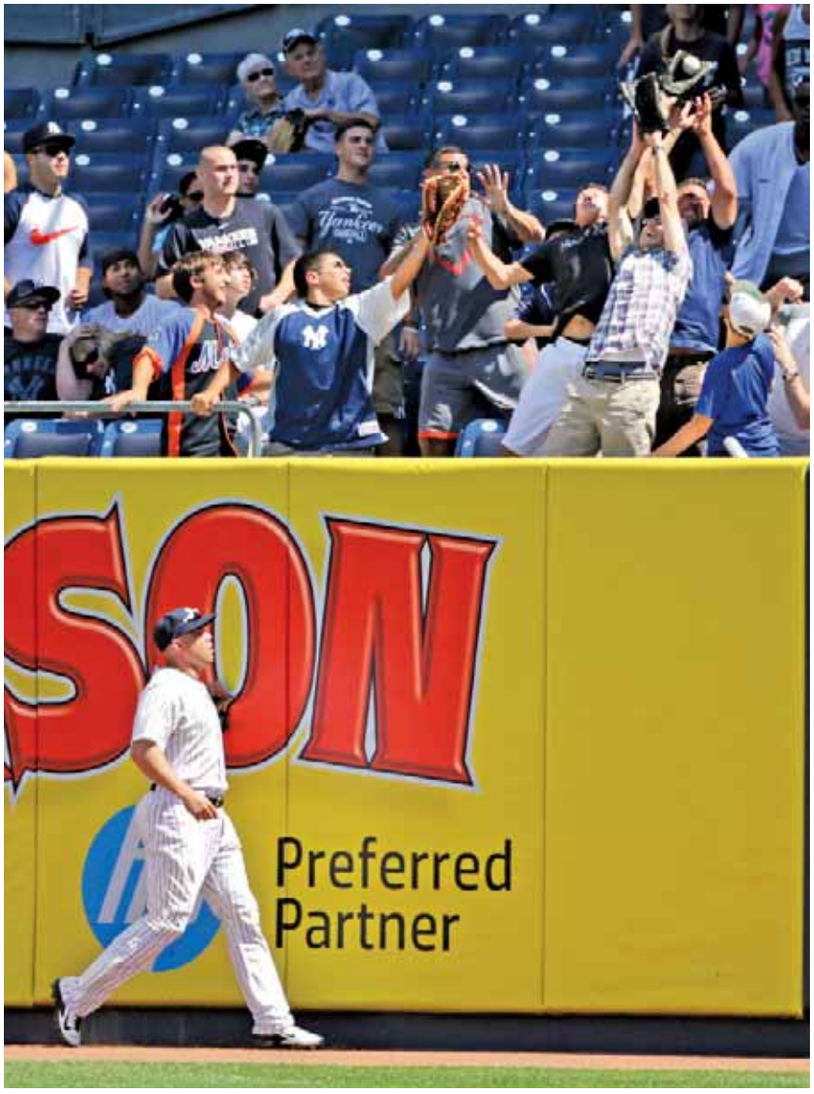
Newly signed Michael Vick arrived at Steelers camp to protesters on National Dog Day



Yankees outfielder Carlos Beltran watches as fans vie to catch a home run ball hit by the Astros' Evan Gattis on Wednesday in New York. FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Evan almighty over Yankees

MLB

Gattis' pair of homers lifts Astros to series victory

A green laser beam bounced around a fog-filled clubhouse, music blared from all corners of the darkened room. It's a post-game party that's becoming commonplace with these Houston Astros.

Evan Gattis hit two home runs, Collin McHugh excelled once again and the Astros exceeded last season's win total, beating the New York Yankees 6-2 Wednesday.

"You could tell the pieces were here," said Gattis, in his first year with Houston. "We're not on an island out there. We could see it."

Still, did he expect such a dramatic turnaround?

"Maybe not this quick," he said.

The AL West leaders improved to 71-57, a year after going 70-92. With almost six weeks left on the schedule, the Astros already have achieved their best season since 2010.

Houston also managed to win a road series for the first time since mid-June at Colorado, taking two of three at Yankee Stadium.

"We see what we've done and haven't done," McHugh said. "It's always there."

Following four seasons in which they averaged 104 losses, the Astros now lead the majors in home runs and have the best ERA in the AL and the most stolen bases.

"We have a lot of strengths," manager A.J. Hinch said. "We can do a lot of damage."

The Yankees have lost five of seven, a slide that's cost them first place in the AL East. The Astros kept them skidding.

"They pitch very well, good defence and they hit the ball out of the ballpark. That's a pretty good combination," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "And they can steal bases."

"They got the best of us," he said.

Gattis sliced an opposite-field shot to right in the second inning and launched a long drive into the left-field seats in the eighth. His third homer in two days gave him 22 this year and boosted the Astros' total to 174.

McHugh (14-7) kept up a recent run of ace pitching, both for himself and the team. Houston has won seven of nine, setting a team record by not permitting more than two runs in any of them. The last AL team with a longer streak was Baltimore in 1974, which went 10 in a row.

Michael Pineda (9-8) came off the disabled list after missing nearly a month because of a strained right forearm. He was tagged for five runs on six hits and a walk in 4-1/3 innings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEDNESDAY IN N.Y.

6	2
ASTROS	YANKEES

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Blue Jays' game against the Rangers in Texas.

IN SEATTLE

Mariners 8, Athletics 2
Felix Hernandez made just two mistakes in eight strong innings, Nelson Cruz hit his AL-leading 39th homer and drove in three runs and Seattle beat the Oakland 8-2.

Hernandez (15-8) allowed a homer to Billy Burns on the first pitch of the game and a solo homer to Brett Lawrie on the first pitch of the seventh inning.

Hernandez struck out seven, walked one and became the second AL pitcher to reach 15 wins.

CFL

Harris in early running for outstanding player award

Heading toward the midway mark of the CFL season, Argonauts quarterback Trevor Harris has thrown himself into the mix for the league's most outstanding player.

Harris is one of the feel-good stories of the CFL season so far, and if there were such an award, he might win that, too.

The 29-year-old quarterback showed patience sitting behind Ricky Ray for three seasons — and watching Zach Collaros step ahead of him when Ray was hurt — and now that he has finally gotten his opportunity, he is making the most of it.

Harris leads the CFL in most of the quarterbacking categories after eight games and, in his first year as a starter, has led the Boatmen to a 6-2 record, which has them tied for first in the East Division.

The other early contenders for the most outstanding player include Hamilton's Collaros, in his second season with the Ticats after leaving Toronto; Calgary quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell, and B.C. Lions running back Andrew Harris.

The Toronto quarterback has been remarkable for a first-year starter on a team that is the most inexperienced in the league. Ottawa Redblacks quarterback Henry Burris said last week that Harris has made a big impression on him.

2004

The last time a first-year starter at quarterback won the league's outstanding player award (Casey Printers).

"He doesn't have big speed," Burris said of Harris, who stands six-foot-three and 212 pounds. "He's not the biggest guy, he doesn't have the big arm, but the thing is he is very intelligent and he's very accurate with his passes."

The true test of whether Harris is MVP material will likely play out in the coming weeks in a head-to-head battle with Collaros and the Ticats. The Argos are in Hamilton on Sept. 7 and have a rematch at the Rogers Centre on Sept. 11. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Argos QB Trevor Harris leads the league with 19 passing touchdowns. MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada done with toeing the line

Canada was denied a bronze medal at the 2012 Summer Games when it was ruled Jared Connaughton stepped on a line. ERIC FEFERBERG/AFP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

RELAY TEAM

Gilbert says team is capable but 'mistakes happen'

Former sprinter Glenroy Gilbert knows first-hand that when 16 large men are travelling through a small space at top speed, there is bound to be trouble.

And Canada has certainly had its fair share lately. Canada's men's 4x100-metre relay team has seemingly been disqualified in more races than not over the past few years, and it's a trend Gilbert would like to see end at the world championships Saturday.

"It's a difficult event," said Canada's relay coach in Beijing.

"These are big guys and these lanes are 48 inches wide, and you're trying to pass a stick with guys running at pretty high velocities in a 20-metre box. It's not easy, technically you have to be very sound.

"And if you're trying to win, you really have to push the exchange zones. And by pushing them however, you can push them a bit too much and run into error."

The Canadians seemingly had bronze in their hands at the 2012 London Olympics, but jubilation turned to heartbreak when they were disqualified for a lane violation — Jared Connaughton had stepped on the inside line. Since then, Canada was DQ'd at last summer's Commonwealth Games and the IAAF World Relays earlier this year — both for violations in the exchange zone. At last month's Pan Am Games, the Canadians were draped in the Maple Leaf, already celebrating victory, when three countries launched a joint protest. Gavin Smellie had stepped on the line. Canada was DQ'd again.

"They're humans, even though they've done it time and time again, mistakes happen," Gilbert said. "You try to get around the corner in a shorter distance, but you don't realize how close you are."

Gilbert pointed out the rules weren't as strict when he competed — a runner had to step on the line three consecutive times to be disqualified.

"I tell the (current) guys all the time, for me personally, I'd love nothing better than to see them run as fast as we did, or faster," Gilbert said. "Are they capable? For sure they're capable. But I also told them: 'you've got to go out there and not make mistakes.'"

Canada's pool of relay runners includes Andre De Grasse, who's coming off a remarkable bronze-medal performance in the 100 metres, Aaron Brown, Brendon Rodney, Gavin Smellie, Akeem Haynes and Justyn Warner.

Gilbert said the team has the potential to win a medal. Canada ran a clean race at the world championships two years ago to capture bronze. THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **if you're trying to win, you really have to push the exchange zones. And by pushing them however, you can push them a bit too much and run into error.**
>
> Glenroy Gilbert, Team Canada relay coach

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Rooney's trick baffles Brugge

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Under-fire striker's treble puts United back in Europe

WEDNESDAY In Bruges

4	0
UNITED	BRUGGE

Manchester win 7-1 on agg.

Wayne Rooney ended a 10-game scoring drought by grabbing a hat-trick in Manchester United's 4-0 win at Club Brugge that eased the English team into the Champions League group stage on Wednesday.

United won 7-1 on aggregate and returned to Europe's premier competition after a one-year absence.

Rooney's confidence grew after putting United ahead in Belgium in the 20th with a lobbed finish over the diving goalkeeper, his first club goal since April 4. The England captain added more goals in the 49th and 57th minutes as Club Brugge' defence was repeatedly opened up.

Rooney wasted a great chance for his fourth goal before Ander Herrera wrapped up the win in the 63rd. Javier Hernandez missed a penalty in the 81st to make it 5-0 after being handed the chance by Rooney, United's usual penalty taker.

England will have four teams in Thursday's group-stage draw.

"It was a big disappointment last year not to challenge in (the Champions League)," Rooney said. "It was vital we went through any way we could."

Rooney's scoring form has been the biggest concern for United at the start of this season, although he insisted it was only a matter of time before he got back among the goals.

"If I didn't have a strong character, maybe it would have affected me," Rooney said.

878

Number of minutes Wayne Rooney had gone with scoring a goal in competition.

Wayne Rooney will try to take his suddenly hot form to Wales this Sunday when Manchester United face Swansea City in the Premier League. DEAN MOUHTAROPOULOS/GETTY IMAGES

When he was put through by Memphis Depay midway through the first half, it was the first genuine one-on-one chance Rooney had found himself in all season. And he took it well.

As Sinan Bolat dived at the feet of Rooney, the striker nonchalantly dinked the ball over the Turkish goalkeeper and into the net to end a long wait for a goal. After celebrating with teammates, Rooney kissed his hands and thrust his arms into the air.

With Club Brugge now needing three goals just to force extra time, the hosts were going to leave spaces at the back for United to exploit.

Depay — a scorer of two classy goals in the first leg — wasted a great chance before halftime and it was left to Rooney to finish the hosts off.

The striker finished a great team move involving Depay and Herrera with a simple sidefooted finish for his second goal, and completed his hat trick with a low shot underneath Bolat after a reverse pass from Juan Mata.

Rooney passed up two chances to complete a four-goal haul. First, he saw Bolat tip aside a chipped finish after racing through one on one and then handed penalty-taking duties to substitute Hernandez after Oscar Duarte handled a cross from Rooney.

Hernandez's standing foot slipped as he was about to strike the ball and he sent it wide of the post. By that time, Herrera had ran onto a fine pass from Bastian Schweinsteiger, another substitute, to slot home for the fourth goal at Jan Breydelstadion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ELSEWHERE

Formed just six years ago, FC Astana became the first team from Kazakhstan to qualify for the group stage after drawing 1-1 at APOEL Nicosia for a 2-1 aggregate win.

Others teams to qualify on Wednesday were Bayer Leverkusen, CSKA Moscow and BATE Borisov.

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CAMP NOTES

Manziel doubtful to play in next pre-season game
Despite extra rest and not throwing for two days in practice this week, Johnny Manziel's right elbow has not responded and Browns coach Mike Pettine said the second-year quarterback will likely sit out Saturday's exhibition at Tampa Bay.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lions trade tackle to Pats
The Detroit Lions have traded tackle Michael Williams to the New England Patriots for an undisclosed 2016 draft pick.
The Lions took Williams in the seventh round of the 2013 draft, but he has not played in an NFL game.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Broncos release kicker
The Denver Broncos have released Connor Barth, a career 85 per cent field goal kicker, to make room for Pro Bowl left guard Evan Mathis.
Brandon McManus will take on the Broncos' kicking duties.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clowney expected to play in opener

NFL

Texans linebacker back from knee injury

Jadeveon Clowney is expected to play in Houston's season opener against the Kansas City Chiefs on Sept. 13.

Coach Bill O'Brien said Wednesday that the pass-rush specialist has looked good in practice and is improving every day.

"He wants to be in there more which is a great sign," O'Brien said. "That means he's probably feeling pretty good. A lot of it has to do with how he's feeling, how the knee's feeling. I think he feels decent and he's worked hard to get back to this point. And we'll just keep inching him forward to be able to go on that first game."

The top overall pick in the 2014 draft had microfracture surgery on his right knee in December and didn't return to practice until Aug. 17. He's feeling strong and is glad all the work he put in during rehabilitation is finally paying off.

> **You try to overdo stuff sometimes and overthink some things. You got to slow down and play the game sometimes.**
> Jadeveon Clowney

He played just four games last season because of various injuries before the surgery. Clowney doesn't quite feel like himself yet after the longest layoff of his career and hopes more practice helps him improve.

"I told the guys, I'm rusty," he said. "I'm just trying to get as many reps as I can, tell the coach to put me in as much as possible, but they're not trying to really rush me back right now. We're just taking it one day at a time, working me in slow."

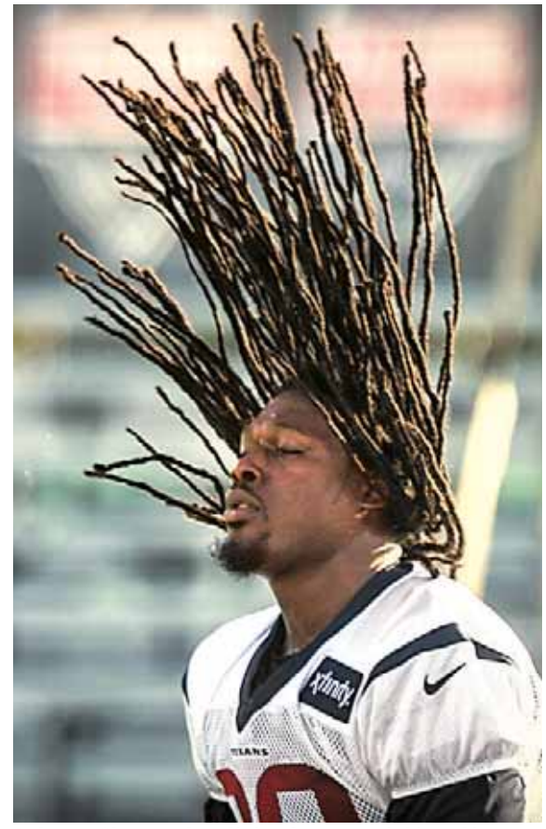
The six-foot-five, 266-pound Clowney isn't worried about his knee and said he doesn't think about it at all when he's on the field. He was injured in his NFL debut last season and had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee. He played three games with one start after that, but never felt right and eventually had the more serious microfracture surgery on the same knee.

He's having a lot of fun now that he's finally back out there with his teammates, and the man who made a name for himself with hard hits at South Carolina broke into a huge smile when asked how it feels to hit people again.

"I'm hitting everybody, talking junk," he said. "That's what I do. I'm loving it."

Clowney admitted to trying to do too much last season in his limited time on the field and said a year of maturity has taught him how to avoid that trap.

"I was just trying to prove to the guys that I was worthy of being the No. 1 pick," he said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jadeveon Clowney played in just four games in his rookie season last year. BRETT COOMER/HOUSTON CHRONICLE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Brownie à la mode

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
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Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves 12.

Ingredients
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 cup reduced-fat yogurt or reduced-fat sour cream
- 1/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 scoop (3 oz) frozen yogurt (optional)
- Icing sugar

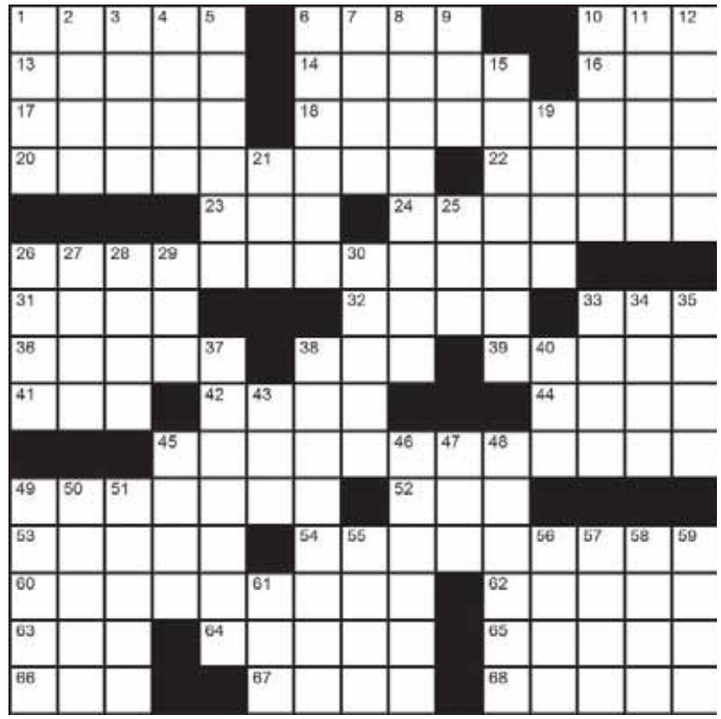
Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Spray a 10-inch ovenproof skillet with cooking oil.
2. To make the brownies: Combine the sugar, oil, egg and vanilla in a bowl and mix well. Add the cocoa, mixing it in well. Add the flour, baking powder, yogurt and chocolate chips, mixing just until combined and smooth. Don't overmix.
3. Pour the batter into the prepared skillet. Bake in the centre of the oven for 15 minutes, just until set. Sprinkle with icing sugar, if desired. Serve with frozen yogurt or light ice cream if using.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 140
- Protein 2 g
- Carbohydrates 20 g
- Fibre 1 g
- Total fat 7 g
- Saturated fat 1.5 g
- Cholesterol 20 mg
- Sodium 15 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Elegant instruments
6. Actress Ms. Gertz
10. US docs' org.
13. Literature's T.S.
14. Rice-_-_
16. Getaway
17. Backslide
18. "Magic Mike" (2012) workplace: 2 wds.
20. Soft drink that has replaced aspartame in The States, but not in Canada: 2 wds.
22. Jostle
23. Tiny Tim's instr.
24. Farmers market, avenue and Metro station sharing the same name in Montreal
26. Emily Carr is wearing glasses in hers at the National Gallery of Canada
31. Unfeigned
32. 'Problem' suffix
33. Not in, Canuck-style
36. "__ of God" (1985)
38. "Gangnam Style" rapper
39. Bisect
41. Peat's pal?
42. Tight
44. Docking spot
45. "The __ __" (2000 George Clooney movie about the fishing vessel Andrea Gail ...parts of its wreckage washed up on the remote shores of Sable Island)
49. Question/interview post-mission
52. 'Restrict' suffix
53. Acrylic fabric
54. Some houses
60. Nova Scotia: _ of the Atlantic (Sable Island's nickname because of the many shipwrecks)
62. Leg bone
63. Melanie, to Dakota
64. Battle royal
65. Crunchy
66. Beer
67. Wing-like
68. Fasteners secured with padlocks

DOWN
1. Had in hand
2. Jai __ (Court game)
3. Fruit's ready-to-be-eaten status
4. Station
5. __ __ to the plate
6. National park designated a Dark-Sky Preserve by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
7. __ & Sciences
8. Professor __ (Character regarded as the 'Napoleon of crime' by Sherlock Holmes)
9. Pasta names suffix
10. Dispense
11. Purple hue
12. Fossil resin
15. __ Sparrow (Bird known to only breed on Sable Island)
19. Talk
21. Mr. __ ("Lost" character)
25. Mai ___ (Cocktail)
26. Quick attempt
27. Therefore
28. Breather's one-of-two
29. Charge
30. Sample the food
33. Odd mixture
34. Completed
35. Condition
37. Feminism pioneer Gloria
38. Giant __ (Wild mushroom that looks just like its name)
40. Inclined
43. "__ you serious?!"
45. Manitoba, e.g.
46. Kind of construction block
47. Dress
48. Take, as someone's purse
49. Tenet
50. Mr. Flynn
51. Finger point
55. Carbamide
56. Italy's former currency
57. Kimono's look-changers
58. Bit of bangs
59. Drains
61. Swanky 'sure'

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Negative feelings could come to the surface as the full moon draws close, but if you deal with them openly and honesty they should not bother you too much. Deal with it.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you feel like doing something different just do it and worry about the consequences later. If you seek advice, friends will tell you to forget about it — so don't ask.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Some things are possible and some are not. If you don't know the difference then what happens today will leave you in no doubt at all. Don't condemn yourself if you make a mistake: at least you tried.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something upsetting may occur but if you look at it logically and from a higher perspective you will see that fate is teaching you a lesson: sometimes you have to give up one thing in order to get something better.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your chores and duties may become such a burden that you consider getting rid of them and starting from scratch. Go for it. Be bold and change your life.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you want something badly enough you will find a way to get it, but you may regret it by the time of the full moon on Saturday. Try not to annoy people who are bigger than you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your sixth sense tells you that something big is going to happen but there is no need to get anxious about it. Whatever comes your way, you will make the most of it.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something seems to be worrying you, but there is no need to torment yourself. Instead of focusing on what might go wrong, find ways to make life more enjoyable and rewarding.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
As far as your money situation is concerned things may have to get worse before they get better. The tide will turn by the start of next week and, looking back, you will realize it was all for your own good.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do the right thing at the right time, especially on the work front. If you act too fast or, worse, too slow you will open yourself up to criticism from rivals and others who don't want you to succeed.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are doing a lot of self-analysis of late. You keep asking yourself why you let yourself to feel the way you did about issues that are of no real importance. Let it go.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
For quite some time now you have had the feeling that you are on the wrong track, and what happens next may confirm your suspicions. This is the start of a new adventure.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		8			2		5	
		7	5					2
5	9					8		
	6							7
				6				
4							1	
		5					4	3
8					4	2		
	1		7			6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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